

Inspectors query record grades

Patten pledges action on GCSE exam standards

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Patten yesterday reacted to a critical report on GCSE examinations with a promise of urgent action to maintain standards. The education secretary was immediately accused of undermining the achievements of pupils who were awarded record grades only five days ago.

The report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate registered "limited confidence" in this year's results. It concluded: "The evidence could point to a gradual erosion of standards since the introduction of the GCSE in 1988."

Some head teachers expressed resentment over the timing of the announcement, which coincided with the first day of term in many parts of the country. Although Mr Patten emphasised that he did not wish to detract from the credit due to pupils and teachers, Ann Taylor, Labour's spokeswoman on education, said the statement would damage morale.

Mrs Taylor questioned Mr

Patten's motives in commenting before the report was published. "It is wholly irresponsible to create uncertainty by announcing that changes may be needed this year without publishing the full report so that parents and teachers can make an informed assessment."

The full text of the report will not be published until next week. However, Mr Patten said: "It is vital that students, their parents and employers have confidence in the GCSE. It would be irresponsible not to act swiftly in the face of such serious reservations expressed by the inspectorate."

Last week's results saw more than half of a rising number of entries awarded the equivalent of an O-level pass for the first time. The fifth successive rise in pass rates since the qualification was introduced was marked by an improvement of 2.3 per cent in the proportion achieving the top three grades. One entry in eight received an A grade.

The figures represented an improvement of almost 29 per cent since the last year of O levels in 1987, when fewer than 40 per cent of students achieved A to C grades. Leading right-wing educationists said that the comparison offered grounds for an enquiry into standards.

Inspectors said that the quality of GCSE papers was "uneven", and they expressed particular concern at the lack of suitable challenge for the brightest pupils. Criteria for the award of different grades needed to be more objective, with more consistent procedures adopted by the exam boards. They said that the assessment of spelling, punctuation and grammar was inconsistent and that course-work needed to be vetted more closely to reduce the need to adjust teachers' marks.

The report, delivered to Mr Patten last week, followed visits to all four GCSE examining groups in England. Examinations were evaluated in 26 syllabuses in ten subjects. The examination boards were told of the findings at a meeting with the education secretary last

Thursday, the day on which this year's results were published.

Dennis Hatfield, the chairman of the Joint Council for the GCSE, said: "We take great care to ensure consistency and I have no reason to doubt this year's gradings, which were much as I expected. However, if an outside body says that something is amiss, we at least have to look at their evidence and see what it means."

Mr Patten has promised to give details of areas which caused concern among the inspectorate in time for the boards to meet the deadline for responses at the end of this month.

John Marks, a member of the School Examinations and Assessment Council (Seac), said the report underlined his concern that standards were at risk. "Mr Patten should order a wide-ranging and independent enquiry as soon as possible, going back before the introduction of GCSE."

Teachers' unions reacted angrily to Mr Patten's announcement. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, described the report as a "slap in the face" for pupils who had just received their results. "It is totally out of kilter with the experience of examining boards, heads and classroom teachers and the government," he said. "The sooner these criticisms can be dealt with and answered the better."

Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "This sounds like a politically motivated last-minute conversion to right-wing orthodoxy, in an attempt to secure a stay of execution over the government's plans to abolish the HMI in its present form."

Mrs Taylor accused Mr Patten of trying to influence the report's reception with a one-sided picture of its contents. "It would be tragic if children were to face further unnecessary changes simply in order for John Patten to

Continued on page 14, col 1

Qualified success, page 2

Diary, page 10

Two dollars to the pound as shares fall

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE dollar plunged to an all-time low against the German mark yesterday and pushed the pound to within a hair's breadth of its limit in the exchange-rate mechanism.

The slump in the dollar pushed the pound above \$2, and sent share prices tumbling to their lowest since the Gulf war. The Bank of England and the other European central banks may be forced to intervene today to keep the pound above its ERM minimum.

The dollar fell to DM1.3905 after reports that the Federal Reserve had intervened to support the currency.

Leading analysts said the fall would continue. "This is a dollar crisis in the making and it is starting to spill over into the ERM," said Paul Chertkow, the head of foreign exchange strategy at UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker.

The pound rose to \$2.0002 at the official market close, the first time it has closed above \$2 since the Gulf war. But it also closed at DM2.7859, less than a penny above its ERM limit.

The FT-SE 100 index fell 14.2 points to 2298.4, its lowest since February last year.

Full details, page 15



Kevin Maxwell, sporting a new beard, outside City of London magistrates' court where he faced £140 million theft and fraud charges yesterday

Railing Fischer struts the boards

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN SVETI STEFAN

THE Bobby Fischer show is on the road again. In an amazing display of histrionics the grand old man of chess yesterday rallied against all odds in a bizarre press conference marking his return to the chess board after a 20-year absence.

Judaism, Israel, the United Nations and trade sanctions against Yugoslavia all came in for withering fusillades and just for good measure he accused his Soviet rivals of fixing the games.

The genius many believe to be the greatest chess player of all time, today at 3.30pm pit his mental wits against his old foe, Boris Spassky, in his first public game since he defeated Spassky in 1972. But time has not mellowed Fischer's eccentricity.

He said: "I don't support the sanctions against Yugoslavia. I don't support the UN. Look at Israel. There is resolution after resolution against them to give up the West Bank. They have ignored these resolutions and there were never any sanctions against them."

"There was, I thought, a pretty good resolution against Israel that Zionism is racism and now this has been re-

Continued on page 14, col 6

UN fearful about Sarajevo famine

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN SARAJEVO

UNITED Nations relief workers in Bosnia-Herzegovina are drawing up urgent plans to prevent hunger and freezing temperatures in Sarajevo claiming more lives than the snipers' bullets and artillery shells this winter.

Although it is still high summer, UN officials say that the capital's airport and the mountain route used for humanitarian aid supplies will be blocked by mists, freezing fog and snow within two months. "If it is an average winter in Bosnia and if we can use only the airport and the road we are using today, then we will not be able to bring in enough food for winter. People will starve," said Dag Espeland, logistics officer for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, at Sarajevo airport.

Five British trucks are expected to join the overland convoy from Split tomorrow and five other Italian trucks should enable the UN to run a more substantial operation into the Bosnian capital. However, these additions to the convoy will make little difference to the city's demand for food.

Sarajevo needs 230 tonnes of food a day to survive. In logistical terms that means a grand total of 75 lorries are needed to supply the relief operation to the city. The UN has only 65 trucks throughout the whole of the former Yugoslavia. There is one road which could serve as an all-weather convoy route, from Split via Mostar. However, that highway has been the scene of bitter fighting between Croats and Serb forces. In addition, two bridges and one tunnel have either been seriously damaged or destroyed. Four separate parts of the road are in areas of recent fighting and are deemed unsafe.

As if to remind them of the desperation within the city, heavy fighting continued yesterday around Sarajevo airport and the suburb of Dobrinja. Shells also fell on the city centre. At least two people were reported killed and several wounded.

We watched as barely 500 yards from the UN hangars at the airport, mortar shells landed on houses just outside the airport perimeter. White puffs of smoke rose above what remained of the red-tiled roofs of houses in the district. A sniper shot echoed in the heavily wooded hills around the airport. There were also what sounded like rocket-propelled grenades being launched parallel to the airport runway.

A tyre factory in Bosnian-held territory along the front line was hit overnight - almost certainly by Serb artillery. Continued on page 14, col 3

Jihad feared, page 8

Maxwell £400m debt hearing deferred

BY ANGELA MACKAY

KEVIN Maxwell escaped being made Britain's biggest ever bankrupt yesterday when his case was further adjourned until tomorrow. Despite a private hearing at the High Court that lasted almost three hours, lawyers for Mr Maxwell and the liquidators of Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM) emerged to announce that the bankruptcy petition had not been heard.

Keith Oliver, of Peters & Peters, Mr Maxwell's solicitor, said: "The bankruptcy petition has been adjourned until Thursday at the earliest. It would be inappropriate for Mr Maxwell to say anything at this stage."

Mr Maxwell emerged from the court looking relaxed and sporting a beard. He refused to elaborate on his solicitor's comment but said that the whole process had been "hellish".

Robson Rhodes, BIM's liquidators, obtained an order in July demanding that Mr Maxwell make interim payments of £406.8 million pending assessment of his total liabilities. The liquidators originally claimed £450 million in damages, representing the pensions monies found missing last December from Maxwell pension funds.

While Mr Maxwell is not defending the bankruptcy order, he is arguing against the liquidators' attempt to bring an expedited petition for bankruptcy. Such an action is brought when there is a possibility that the value of the debtor's property may be "significantly diminished" in the meantime. It is believed that was the subject of the legal argument yesterday. Mr Maxwell's brother Ian is fighting a move by Bishopsgate to make him bankrupt. Britain's biggest bankrupt to date is still William Stern, the former property magnate who went under owing £118 million in 1974.

Earlier, Mr Maxwell, his brother Ian and an associate, Larry Trachtenberg, were further remanded until December 1 by the City of London magistrates. Kevin faces eight theft and fraud charges totalling £140 million, and his brother is charged with conspiracy to defraud. Mr Trachtenberg faces six charges of theft and fraud.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

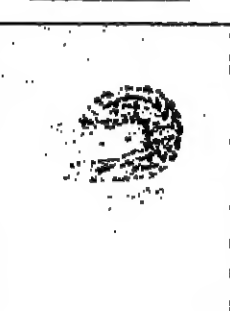
THE CLASS OF '92



Russian children returned to school yesterday and for some of them it was a novel lesson in private education

Page 8

A TOUCH OF CLASS



A decorative masterpiece which co-starred with Marlene Dietrich is up for grabs, on her instructions

Page 14

CLASS OF HIS OWN



After Eliza... Benny Green risks the pitfalls of adapting a GBS work for the musical stage

Life & Times Page 3

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How to ration the time your child watches TV

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

PARENTS too weak-willed, indulgent or exhausted to insist that their children turn off the television can take hope from a new gadget introduced in the United States. TV Allowance is an electronic disciplinarian that permits each member of the family a specific amount of viewing time and turns off the set when it runs out.

The machine was invented by an amateur scientist from Florida who said that his family life was being destroyed by battles with his children over the amount of time they spent in front of the box. It went on sale in America last month for \$99 (£55). It is being adapted to European sets and is expected to reach Britain early next year.

The principle is simple: every member of the family is allotted an individual code which must be punched into the

machine to turn the television on: each minute watched deducts a minute from that person's viewing allocation. The inventor, Randal Levenson, said that the machine teaches the young self-discipline and discrimination and, moreover, instils the essentials of capitalism since children can save up their viewing time, barter it with each other or team up to maximise their resources. "Initially I invented it just so I could stop yelling at my kids over the television, but it's really more a teaching tool than an authoritarian device," Mr Levenson said. "It teaches kids budgeting techniques, the art of the deal and business ethics."

Parents can programme the machine not to turn on at certain times (mealtimes, or during homework hours) and, like most parental restrictions, it is unfair: parents are able to allocate themselves unlimited viewing time.

A recent survey revealed that the aver-

age American teenager spends three hours a day in front of the television, but authorities on child care are divided over whether a machine such as TV Allowance is the way to reduce television time, let alone maintain harmonious family relations. Some child psychologists argue that children should be weaned off television by persuasion and consultation and that "house rules" should be enforced by parents, not gadgets.

A number of satisfied customers report that the new contraption has successfully persuaded their children to look for other forms of entertainment. Others have found that their children simply alter their viewing habits: turning off the television during commercials, forcing younger siblings to surrender their viewing codes and refusing to watch anything recommended by their parents unless it is taken off the parents' viewing time.



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Sparkling form: Laura Davies, aged four, who is recovering from a bowel and liver transplant, celebrates her release from hospital in Pittsburgh by meeting the press. Flanked by her parents Fran and Les, from Lancashire, she said: "I'm feeling well. I like it in America."

Heads scornful of performance-related pay for teachers

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers are almost universally hostile to proposals for performance-related pay (PRP) in the teaching profession, and regard existing incentive allowances as an ineffective means of rewarding classroom performance, according to a survey of more than three thousand schools published today.

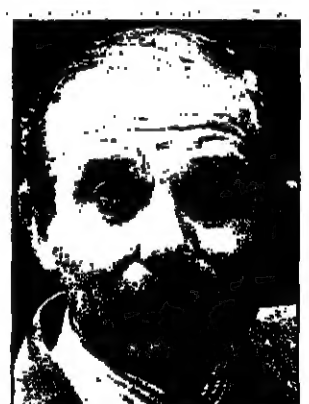
The report, compiled for the National Association of Head Teachers, found "substantial levels of dissatisfaction" with plans to introduce PRP from next year, among the 3,300 heads responding, and widespread concern that it would inevitably be linked to the new teacher appraisal scheme.

Many heads argued that "the basic building blocks for a successful human resource strategy are not in place," citing factors such as the inequitable funding of schools and the complexities of the current pay system.

Only 3 per cent of heads said they used existing incentive allowances to reward classroom excellence, compared to 79 per cent who used these discretionary awards to top up the salaries of teachers

assuming extra responsibility. Many complained that such allowances, which range from £1,296 to £7,692, were already underfunded.

The heads' responses are to be submitted to the School Teachers' Review Body as evidence for next January's report on performance related pay to the prime minister. Ministers have already rejected the review body's call for top-up cash bonuses to academically successful schools, in favour of performance pay



David Hart: "heads are sceptical"

for individual teachers drawn from schools' existing budgets. David Hart, general secretary of NAHT, said it was "plain as a pikestaff" that heads were deeply sceptical about performance pay, potentially the most contentious area of the government's education reforms.

"Ministers should take note of this evidence, which shows that heads don't believe that PRP sits at all easily with the concept of teamwork upon which the running of schools is based."

Those who claimed that performance pay could be drawn from an "already inadequate" pay bill were "flying in the face of all the received evidence", Mr Hart added. The education department said the government remained convinced that performance pay was the best way of encouraging teaching excellence. "Every teacher should be eligible for PRP and this will only be achieved if the focus on targets permeates the whole pay and decision-making process," it said.

Standards pledge, page 1

GCSE: qualified success is under examination

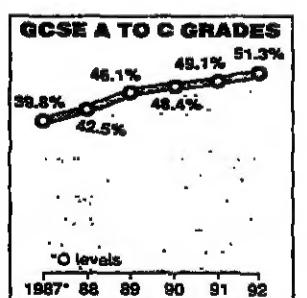
John O'Leary recalls the trials of a beleaguered qualification, damned whether it succeeds or fails

JOHN Patten's intervention on marking standards is merely the latest in a long series of trials to have beset the GCSE. Only the 11-plus could be said to have divided educational opinion so strongly.

The idea of a single examination taken before the compulsory school-leaving age took 20 years to come to fruition. Since it did, in spite of growing popularity, with teachers and pupils, the enterprise has often seemed doomed to disaster.

Ironically for a qualification whose critics invariably come from the right, the GCSE's initiator was Lord Joseph, who saw it as his greatest achievement as education secretary. His main concern was for the least able 40 per cent of pupils, who never took O levels. The new syllabuses introduced in 1986 were to cater for them as well as their more academic contemporaries.

Sceptics said that a single examination would never work because of the spread of ability it covered. In the simplest terms, it would be too easy to stretch the brightest pupils, or provide a grounding for A level and higher education. When the first examinations were held, in 1988, they were condemned as superficial. More recently, coursework has become the main target. John Major led the attack on the proportion of marks awarded outside the examination hall, and new restrictions will be introduced



in 1994. Even the qualification's successes have turned into millstones around its neck. Five successive years of rising pass rates have been taken by the critics of GCSE to indicate unreliable marking and low standards. The inspectors' report, which should be published next week, will bring the controversy to a head.

Throughout the years of criticism, the GCSE has secured overwhelming support among teachers and fired the enthusiasm of pupils. Supporters in schools believe that coursework has given confidence to pupils daunted by examinations without sacrificing rigour. They see GCSE placing greater value on the development of relevant knowledge, at the expense of rote learning.

The GCSE's admirers believe that schools are caught in a vicious circle: damned if performance improves, damned if it does not. They attribute rising pass rates to the success of educational reforms and growing familiarity with the qualification.

George Turnbull, a spokesman for the Southern Examining Group, one of the largest GCSE boards, which have gone out of their way this year to stress the level of care they take to ensure consistency, said it was strange that HMI should suddenly be so critical of the qualification. "We are convinced standards are being maintained. The GCSEs are the same from year to year and neither get easier nor harder."

Changes in the pipeline for 1994, which will see papers set for different ability ranges, as well as limiting the marks for coursework, should satisfy some of the GCSE's critics. The inspectors have ensured that there will be no respite until then.

Standards pledge, page 1
Diary, page 10

Land Rover defies recession

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

LAND ROVER is to increase production. The move contrasts sharply with the situation at Britain's other major car manufacturers where lost sales have led to short-time working. The company announced yesterday that it is raising output of its Discovery range by 10 per cent to 550 a week. Production of Range Rovers goes up from 350 to 370 a week.

Those rates could be increased further as Land Rover emerges as one of the few companies which has been able to overcome the recessionary trend of the past three years.

Workers at the plant at Solihull, West Midlands, have been told unofficially that output of the Discovery could be raised to 600 a week before the end of the year.

The announcement at Land Rover was greeted yesterday

with astonishment by motor industry analysts. The market for luxury vehicles, which includes the £21,000 Discovery and the Range Rover priced between £26,000 and £35,000, has shrunk during the recession. Last week Jaguar announced 700 redundancies because of the drastic fall in orders both at home and abroad.

At the same time both Ford and Rover, the main mass-manufacturing arm of the Rover Group which includes Land Rover, have put thousands of workers on short-time while the recession continues to deepen. Sales of new cars in August showed little sign of reviving beyond the level of last year, which had the worst total since 1982.

Manufacturers reported last night that sales last month were fractionally up on August 1991, with about three sales

days yet to be reported. They believe sales could be about 40,000 down on last year's 368,000 but the total for 1992 could be as low as 1.55 million, down on the 1.59 million of 1991 and significantly below the 1989 record of 2.3 million.

Land Rover, which markets a range of relatively high-priced vehicles competing for sales against Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar and BMW, seems to have become an oasis in a desert of sales. Orders have remained strong in the UK, "lightly better than in 1991, while other luxury car makers have suffered falls of up to 40 per cent."

The Defender model, the derivative of the original Land Rover vehicle which launched the company in 1948, was launched in the United States for the first time earlier this year.

Labour draws up jobs and homes package

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A PACKAGE of employment, investment and housing market measures aimed at removing the fear of unemployment and restoring confidence in the economy was advocated by the Labour leadership last night.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, called on Norman Lamont to make joint European expansion the centrepiece of this weekend's meeting of European finance ministers in Bath. Mr Brown gave a warning that unless urgent action was taken to end the recession, parts of British industry could be lost for ever.

As the shadow cabinet's economic committee prepares for a key meeting tomorrow to discuss Labour's economic stance, Mr Brown made it plain that Labour was not calling for a realignment of the exchange-rate mechanism.

Leadership sources made it clear that John Smith would resist calls from within the party for Labour to identify itself with demands for a revaluation, which he believes would damage Labour in the long-term. The party accepts that a realignment would not necessarily lead to a reduction in interest rates. The party will instead concentrate on putting forward alternative measures to tackle the recession.

Mr Brown said there was a clamour for change from the public, industry and from



Brown: clamour by public for change

within the Tory party. He published a Labour survey suggesting that capacity in the car industry was down 11.7 per cent, textiles by 11.5 per cent, footwear and clothing by 13.4 per cent, and metals by 12.7 per cent. "No other country has seen such a fall in capacity in key sectors."

He called for measures to reduce unemployment, for fiscal and business investment incentives, and help for housing associations to buy unsold properties for rent. He told a Westminster news conference: "Our argument is that people will spend, invest and move homes and thus expand the economy only if we take measures that will remove the fear of unemployment. It is fear of rising unemployment and insecurity about our economic prospects that is holding the economy back."

Meanwhile Frank Dobson, the shadow employment secretary, said that more than a third of manufacturing jobs have been lost since 1979.

The country was being "brought to its knees" by the loss of 2.4 million manufacturing jobs, with the South East and West Midlands hardest-hit, he said. The number of people employed in manufacturing fell from 7.1 million in June 1979 to 4.6 million in December 1991.

Two-dollar pound, page 15

Farming brothers buy village for £5m

Two local farmers who are brothers have bought the village of West Tisted, near Alresford in Hampshire, with 40 cottages, a shop, rectory, stud, farm and school, for an estimated £5 million (Rachel Kelly writes). A spokeswoman for the new owners, William and Astrid Hill, said yesterday that the estate would be kept intact and that the future of the 100 villagers, about half of whom work on the estate, was assured.

The 1,800 acre estate was sold by the trustees of Basil Samuel, the property developer, who with his brother Howard Samuel built up Great Portland Estates and who died four years ago. He bought the estate after the war. The new owners, both unmarried, live in Fareham, Hampshire, where they have wide-ranging business and farming interests. The particular attraction of West Tisted was its farm, which has won numerous local farming prizes, said the spokeswoman. They have bought the freehold of the estate, subject to the existing occupancies of the village residents. All its 1930s semi-detached cottages are occupied. A few years ago the ownership of the estate might have attracted a wealthy industrialist, but the property slump has seen a dearth of such buyers and prices have halved.

House prices fall again

House prices fell for the third month running in July with the market showing no sign of a recovery, the Nationwide building society said yesterday. Prices slipped by 0.2 per cent after falling 0.5 per cent in each of the previous two months, according to the monthly survey by Britain's second biggest society. The unfreezing of stamp duty during the middle of last month and uncertainty over interest rates are likely to depress the market still further in the short term. McVillie-Ross, the society's chief executive said. The average cost of a home has dropped by around £700 since January and is more than 5 per cent down on last year. Mr McVillie-Ross said that prices were at a 20-year low in relation to incomes.

Heart girl 'levelling'

The condition of Wendy Walker, the ten-year-old heart transplant patient, was yesterday said to be slowly "levelling". Wendy, recovering in intensive care from a bowel operation at the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, where she received a new heart seven days ago, was described as "still very poorly". But a hospital spokesman added: "Her condition has not worsened. She is levelling, but very slowly." Wendy, from Longforgan, Tayside, had her heart damaged beyond repair by a virus contracted on a school trip. Doctors feared that she would not live for more than 72 hours, but she survived for seven weeks until a heart became available.

Moore studio enquiry

An enquiry opens today into plans to develop Henry Moore's studio complex in Hertfordshire, which the sculptor's daughter has described as very far from her father's wishes. Permission had been refused by East Hertfordshire District Council. Mary Moore, who has asked David Mellor, the heritage secretary, to list the buildings, is expected to give evidence at the enquiry, which has been allocated five days. The Henry Moore Foundation has put forward plans for new study and visitor centres at Ferry Green, which had been Moore's home from 1946 until his death six years ago. The foundation claims present facilities are now wholly inadequate for its work.

Dogs to die after attack

Eleven dogs from a pack that savaged a nine-year-old girl are expected to share the fate of 28 already destroyed. Beverly Hurst was attacked by the pack, kept by a farmer, as she walked with her sister in the Cheshire village of Pickmere on Saturday. She is described as "stable" with serious injuries, in Liverpool's Alder Hey children's hospital. All the dogs have now been rounded up. Eleven found yesterday are not thought to be dangerous, but police say they want to avoid any chance of a repeat attack. The pack's keeper, Alan Gerrard, of Hall Farm, Hall Lane, Pickmere, has refused permission for four of the dogs to be put down. A file is being prepared and will be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mansion demolished

Demolition work began yesterday on Minto House, family seat of the earls of Minto, in spite of it being designated as a grade A listed building by Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary. Contractors moved into the neo-classical house after Borders regional council, of which the sixth Earl of Minto is convener, granted a dangerous building notice enabling demolition of those parts considered unsafe. The move - just five days after Mr Lang broke his holiday and stepped in to save the mansion - has infuriated the Scottish Civic Trust and other conservationists.

Lord Minto said he was also applying for consent to demolish the whole house.

Union fights ruling

A judge's preliminary view that a trade union could be breaking the law if it endorses a call for a strike before its members are balloted, is to be challenged in the Court of Appeal. The High Court ruling has alarmed activists, who fear it could be a serious blow to their ability to protect their members. The decision came yesterday, after Mrs Justice Ebsworth ordered the local government union NALGO to call off a strike involving 1,100 council staff in the east London borough of Newham, over compulsory redundancies.

Mr Phil Thompson, a NALGO official, said: "The ruling outlaws a union campaign for a yes vote."

Jury told of PC shooting

A jury at the Old Bailey was told yesterday how a policeman was shot in the groin as he searched a motorist. Sgt Alan Jones, 35, who was taken to hospital by helicopter after the shooting on December 19 last year, had stopped two men in a Ford Sierra because he suspected them of kerb crawling. In fact, said Orlando Pownall, for the prosecution, Robert Fallon, 34, and Christopher Danaher, 33, were gunmen in a stolen car looking for a robbery target. Fallon denies attempting to murder Sgt Jones. Both men, from Wembley, deny the theft of the Sierra and having firearms with intent to endanger life. Danaher also pleads not guilty to conspiracy to rob. The trial continues.

Bough apologises

Frank Bough, the television presenter photographed in the *Sunday Mirror* visiting a club offering sadomasochistic services, apologised yesterday for the distress he had caused his wife and family. Mr Bough, 59, who was exposed by another newspaper four years ago as attending a sex and drug party, said that he was "feeling exceedingly stupid". In a BBC interview previewed on Sky, he said: "I bitterly regret all these things, but I have to say that I believe that everybody, when they have difficulties with their marriage or sexuality, surely has the right to sort these things out in the privacy of their own home." Asked about being caught for a second time, Mr Bough said: "I can say that I made a resolve then and I have not kept that resolve. I have been weak and I have been silly." His wife, Nesta, said that she was "very hurt and angry" with her husband.

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OFFICER NAVY

Pressure increases on banks to shelve account charges

BANKS came under renewed pressure yesterday to shelve plans to abolish free banking. As analysts warned of a revolt by customers transferring millions of pounds out of clearing banks, senior Labour figures called on the Chancellor to set up an enquiry into bank costs, charges and services.

The spectre of a mass exodus from banks was raised yesterday by John Reid, a director of Mori Financial Services, which regularly monitors customers' views for the big banks. He said: "If banks re-introduce charges, that might provoke a backlash. At the moment, more than two thirds of customers with the big four high street banks are satisfied with the service they receive. This is partly explained by free banking — Midland got a huge lift when it introduced the service in 1984."

Gordon Brown, shadow Chancellor, said: "I fear that many millions of customers are going to have to pay." Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, yesterday wrote to Sir Bryan Carsberg, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, about the plans to introduce charges on all current accounts that remain in credit. Mr Griffiths said: "The banks already earn interest on customers' money in current accounts which they do not pass on. These charges are therefore hard to justify. Banks are one of the few institutions that

Analysts predict a customer revolt if free banking is abolished, write
Nicholas Watt and Kate Alderson

can remove people's money without alerting them in advance."

Mr Reid's warnings of an exodus were underlined by customers of the leading banks in the City. Claire Gadd, an analyst programmer, said that she knew of people who already hid their money under the mattress.

"The banks are just screwing the people who have looked after their money," she said. "Times are hard for everyone, not just the banks, and I don't see why we should pay for their problems."

Michael Bradford, a stockbroker whose account is in credit, said that the proposal was typical of a profession that was moving further from the customer. "The bank manager is now an enemy and a robot and I rue the day the banks stopped being friendly to their customers. They lent unwisely in the Eighties and now the ordinary user is expected to foot the bill."

Joanne Bright, a systems analyst with an overdraft, said: "I'm working for the day when I'm not in debt, so the idea that I could be charged

when I'm in credit makes me very angry."

Banks are considering re-introducing the charges because a small minority of customers, who pay charges for services such as overdrafts, subsidise account holders who always remain in credit. Barclays said yesterday that as many as 80 per cent of its current account customers were being subsidised.

John Cheese, head of marketing for Barclays' personal banking division, said research showed that people were aware of how lucky they were to have free banking. "People prefer a free lunch, but they know there is no such thing," he said.

If charges were re-introduced, people would prefer a flat fee rather than charges on each transaction, he said. "We have found that if charges are levied, people appreciate simplicity and like to know what they are paying."

He dismissed Labour's claim that the big banks had colluded in considering the re-introduction of the charges. "We have to compete with 20 major financial institutions on top of the other high street banks. The level of competition is ferocious."

Building societies would waste no time in swallowing up business from disgruntled bank customers. Paul Burgin, of Abbey National, said yesterday: "We would hope that people would come rushing to us."



Gourmet's choice: Raymond Blanc heading the queue yesterday for a £1 meal at Wheatley Park comprehensive school in Oxfordshire

Blanc joins drive to boost the school meal

By CRAIG SETON

RAYMOND Blanc, the chef-patron of one of Britain's leading hotel restaurants, yesterday lent his name to a campaign aimed at promoting school meals and destroying their image as unappetising and unhealthy stodge.

Mr Blanc sat down for lunch with pupils at the Wheatley Park comprehensive school at Wheatley in Oxfordshire, only three miles from Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, the palace of culinary delights he runs at Great Milton. He was there at the invitation of Oxfordshire County Council which today launches a television advertising campaign with other education authorities to promote school food under the banner "schools dinners are cool dinners".

While customers at Le Manoir may well have been eating at a cost of £50 or more a head, he tucked into a meal that cost pupils about £1. He chose a lamb casserole rather than a lasagne, accompanied by sweet corn, a baked potato and salad and finished off with a cinnamon, peasan's pudding and custard.

In the school kitchens, Mabel Giles, the school's cook who had prepared the meal, nervously awaited the famous chef's appraisal. Mrs Giles need not have worried. Mr Blanc was most complimentary, although he immediately set out the parameters of his judgment.

He said: "It would be unfair to compare this with what we serve at Le Manoir, but it is really very good. It was very simple but appetising, nicely cooked, nutritious and quite substantial. I would be happy to serve this as a staff meal at the restaurant."

Mr Blanc also echoed the view that school meals' officials hope will get across to parents of school pupils who take sandwiches to school or visit the local fish and chip shop rather than eat school dinners.

The hi-tech home office

Firms cautious about teleworking

By PETER VICTOR

THE NEWS that British Telecom has struck an agreement with the Society of Telecom Executives to introduce home-working among its management staff conjures up visions of thousands of workers escaping the rigours of commuting and clocking-in via a terminal on their kitchen table.

The dream is least further credibility by a conference on "teleworking", to be held at Brighton Conference Centre on September 15, but the reality may still be some way off. It's not that we don't have the technology. BT has been operating a small pilot scheme in Scotland, where directory enquiry operators have been working from home and keeping in touch with office life via a video link-up with their colleagues at break times. And it may be the human factor

which has so far prevented companies taking up teleworking in a big way.

Various predictions have been made, including that 15 per cent of the British workforce, around three million people, would be teleworking by 1995. A recent survey of 250 employers, however, showed that little progress has been made since 1989. According to the CBI, there are only three companies using teleworking to any great extent: BT, Rank Xerox and IBM. IBM has 1,500 staff — 10 per cent of its UK workforce — using computer terminals at home as an adjunct to their work in the office, but none on a full-time basis.

Rank Xerox appears furthest along the path. Its Networking scheme, under which staff were given new

contracts and work from home, has now been revised. Around 70 people joined the scheme, and now the company is widening it, encouraging staff to work on a network basis in a number of ways, either as teleworkers, or as self-managed groups at office bases if that suits them best. The programme will eventually take in all 4,300 UK staff.

Telecom companies are keen to promote teleworking because of the attendant opportunities to sell equipment. But they are also concerned about the implications. Ian Lunn, product specialist with Mercury Communications' Flexible Working Products Group, said: "We're in business to sell telecom products but if teleworking doesn't work because of some other issues then we'll lose out. Technology is an easy issue.

More difficult are the organisational, structural and legal implications."

Mercury has launched a programme to alert corporations to the issues. Its personnel department is working to produce a policy for teleworking for implementation at the end of this year.

Reservations remain among employers and workers. A spokesman for the CBI said: "Teleworking has the advantage of being more efficient. However, research shows that teleworkers miss the company of other workers. Other factors for workers are that they have to discipline themselves and they feel isolated because they are not in contact with the office every day. They also fear that they might suffer discrimination because they are not seen at the office."

	Abbey National Current Account	Barclays Interest Option	Midland First Direct Cheque Account	Bank of Scotland Chequeplus	Lloyds Classic	Halifax Maxini	NatWest Current Plan
Overdraft fees	None	Authorised: £10pm if over £200 Unauthorised: £15pm if £200-£200 £25 if over £200	1% of OD if over £250 Min £15 Unauthorised: £20pm +£25/day	1% of OD if over £100 +£7pm	£8pm if over £100 OD	None	None if average balance is over £500, else £20 pcr if unauthorised £20 pcr if over £50
Overdraft interest rate charges (APR)	Authorised: 24.4 Unauthorised: 34.4	24.1 EAR	20.7 EAR	18.5 EAR	23.8 EAR	24.3 EAR	23.2 EAR
Stopping cheque	None	£3	£3	£5	£8	£7.50	£7
Bankers' draft	None	£10	£8	£5	£10	£14	£10
Duplicate statement	None	None	£4-£5 sheet	£5 sheet	£5 sheet	£5	£2
Bounced cheque (BC)	£20	£20	£20	£10	£25	£15 first £10 next	£27.50
Receiving BC	None	None	None	£3 First one free, then £10	£4	£10	None
Overdraft letter	None	None	£15	£10	£10	£10	£20

EAR = Effective equivalent rate

Strangeways staff backs bid

By RONALD FAUX

STAFF at Strangeways jail agreed yesterday to back proposals to compete with the private sector for the contract to run the prison. The decision to support a prison service management bid to run the Manchester jail pre-empted a special conference of the Prison Officers' Association which was called to discuss the proposal today.

Ministers made it clear last month that they hoped the prison service would submit a bid to manage Strangeways after a £63 million refurbishment programme is completed next year. The decision to privatise the jail has, however, caused difficulties for the association's executive because some members fear it will lead to job losses.

Yesterday Robin Halward, the new governor at Strangeways, said he expected that the number of inmates at the jail would in future be limited and that overcrowding, the root cause of riots which wrecked the jail two years ago, would not recur.

He promised a "positive and non-oppressive" regime for inmates and staff if the prison service bid to run the jail succeeded. His brief was to prepare a bid in competition with the private sector.

Mr Halward, 41, formerly governor at Armley prison, Leeds, said: "I would expect that the specification for Strangeways will specify the level of prisoners held. That level will not vary without agreement. I will be looking

for a ceiling on the number of prisoners, which I would expect to be non-overcrowded."

He said that the detailed plans for the prison service bid were commercially confidential but that they would incorporate recommendations made in the Woolf Report on improvements needed in the service.

The new governor said he was concerned at last month's declaration by Judge Tummim, chief inspector of prisons, that conditions for remand inmates at Strangeways remained unacceptably poor. "Clearly one would always prefer to get a more positive report but in the time since the riot Strangeways has not been asked to operate as a model prison," Mr Halward said.

Zoo panders to taste for suspense

IS SHE, or isn't she? Although it may be entering its final month, London zoo has lost none of its talent for teasing publicity, and yesterday hinted that its giant panda, Ming Ming, could be pregnant.

Given the zoo's luck with pandas, she probably isn't. For years it tried to persuade Chi-Chi, the best-remembered London panda, to mate with the Soviet An-An, but with no success. Then Chi-Chi went off to Mexico and quickly fathered a cub.

The zoo's chief executive and co-holder of the world giant panda stud-book, Dr Jo Gippis, says it is all a matter of compatibility. London has simply never been lucky enough to house a pair of pandas who like each other well enough to want to perpetuate the species. The current pair, Ming Ming from China and Bao Bao from Berlin, came to blows when first introduced, and the pregnancy — if so it proves — was induced by artificial insemination.

Nigel Hawkes reports on the pregnancy that may give new life to London zoo — if it is real



Ming Ming, more cheerful mood

building a nest, and then she begins genital flicking, the indication that a birth is imminent," Dr Gippis said.

Obvious bulges are out because the baby is no bigger than a small pink rat, and has no perceptible effect on the dimensions of the mother. Nor is it certain when a panda will deliver, as the gestation period can be anything between 95 and 150 days. The earliest possible date for Ming Ming to

give birth would be next Monday, Mr Carman said, but it could be up to six weeks later.

"I'm not confident, but on the other hand, miracles do happen."

In the wild, the breeding of pandas is a gentle pursuit, preceded by both partners pacing about moaning, bleating and panting. At London zoo, most of the moaning, bleating and panting is likely to be done by the staff, hoping that Ming Ming might yet pull off a miracle and postpone closure.

A zoo spokeswoman said yesterday that the threat of closure had not been lifted, but that the fellows of the Zoological Society will spend the month examining proposals that have been made for keeping the zoo open before making a final decision at the end of the month. All the publicity about the zoo's future had been a help. "Attendances this summer have been fantastic," she said.

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Children in danger of vitamin pill overdosing

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MOST half the parents who give their children vitamins are unaware of the widely publicised dangers of overdosing, doctors say. Many are unable to give vitamins correctly and safely, even after receiving professional advice.

Researchers at Northwick Park Hospital, London, studied parents attending child health clinics and found that more than one in five children given vitamin pills were on the wrong dose. Only 35 per cent of parents knew when to stop supplements and 46 per cent did not realise that overdosing was potentially harmful, the researchers write in this month's *Archives of Disease in Childhood*.

Those parents unaware of the dangers of overdosing were giving their children vitamins A or D, which can cause bone troubles in large doses. Recent publicity about vitamins improving children's intelligence makes it "especially important to make the public aware of the potentially harmful effects of the inappropriate administration of vitamins", the researchers

Hans Eysenck, one of the chief proponents of the theory

of a link between vitamins in the diet and intelligence, has attacked the Medical Research Council for making "inaccurate, erroneous and insulting insinuations" about his research.

The attack will fuel the controversy over the link, which has been the subject of seven scientifically controlled studies, according to a review in the current issue of *The Psychologist*. Five of the studies have reported beneficial effects for vitamin supplements but two have found none. Most researchers are sceptical of the link because of lack of evidence that people eating a normal diet can benefit from extra vitamins.

In the disputed study by Professor Eysenck and colleagues, which was also the subject of a QED programme on BBC television in February last year, 400 schoolchildren were given differing amounts of vitamin supplements over 12 weeks and had their IQs tested at the beginning and end of the period. The results suggested that almost half the children were performing below par because they were getting insufficient vitamins in their diet.

Professor Eysenck concluded that "a sizable number" of schoolchildren could have their IQ raised by about 11 points through vitamin supplements. There was a rush to buy vitamins after the results of the trial, published in a little known journal, *Personality and Individual Differences*, were presented on QED.

The council, concerned that the public might be being misled, issued a statement warning that Professor Eysenck's claims were premature. It criticised his failure to account for the fact that some children taking a placebo showed an improvement in IQ and that some taking the supplements performed worse at the end of the trial. It also questioned his failure to publish the study in a "first class" journal.

Nurses must take bigger role

By ALISON ROBERTS

NURSES should take more responsibility and should concentrate on patients as individuals, the Audit Commission says in guidelines for ward sisters published today. The guidelines coincide with a report published yesterday which shows that nearly one in six British nurses are seriously considering moving abroad.

The Royal College of Nurses welcomed the commission's recommendations, which added responsibility to encourage more nurses to stay. Christine Hancock, general secretary, said: "Too many nurses are trapped in a system of endless tasks and routines which are a hindrance, not a help, to patients."

The commission studied 39 wards in ten NHS hospitals. In most of the sample wards, patients had little sense of personal contact with individual nurses, who were perceived as hurried and impersonal. The handbook says: "One nurse should have overall responsibility for the assessment of the patient's needs, the plan of care and the implementation and evaluation of the plan throughout the patient's stay."

In more than half the wards studied, responsibility for clinical decision-making rested with "any nurse on shift". The handbook says patients complain that wards feel like production lines and that there is not enough assessment of individual needs. It calls for a change in management attitudes and says that nursing should be planned around the needs and preferences of patients rather than those of nurses and managers.

The timetable of a patient's stay often indicates whether ward routines are inflexible, it says. Patients were allowed to wake up in their own time in only 10 per cent of the wards studied. In about 30 per cent, they were woken before 6.30. In the remainder before 7.30. Once awake, they had to wait up to two hours for breakfast.

Palumbo applies to shut Roman street

By JOHN YOUNG

THE prolonged dispute over the redevelopment of the Mappin & Webb site in the City of London reaches a new stage today, with the publication by the transport department of an application by Lord Palumbo, chairman of City Acre Property, for the closure of the ancient streets of Bucklersbury and Pancras Lane.

In 1982, Lord Palumbo, who is now chairman of the Arts Council, applied to redevelop the site to include a new square and an office tower designed by the late Mies van der Rohe. Planning permission was refused by the City corporation, whose decision was upheld by Patrick Jenkin, then environment secretary, after a public enquiry.

Lord Palumbo tried again with a design by Sir James

Stirling. Planning permission was again refused, but after a further public enquiry it was approved by Nicholas Ridley, Mr Jenkin's successor. The conservation group Save Britain's Heritage (Save) applied for a judicial review, lost its case in the High Court but won it in the Court of Appeal. Lord Palumbo appealed to the House of Lords, who decided in his favour and awarded costs against Save.

The conservationists are now pinning their hopes on the likelihood of yet another public enquiry, this time into the road closure proposals.

In a booklet published today, Save claims that recent excavations indicate that Bucklersbury was one of the oldest Roman roads in Britain. Jenny Freeman, author of the report and former secretary of the Victoria Society, said yesterday: "There has been continuous settlement in the neighbourhood for nearly 2,000 years, but all this will be utterly obliterated if Lord Palumbo's scheme goes ahead. Moreover, today's City workers will be grossly inconvenienced."

Stop the Destruction of Bucklersbury (Save Britain's Heritage, 68 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3HX; £3.50)

Stop the Destruction of Bucklersbury (Save Britain's Heritage, 68 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3HX; £3.50)



Then and now: Lord Montagu with a Rolls-Royce in his motor museum yesterday, left, and driving with a friend in a 1903 car in 1952, the year he opened the museum

Beaulieu host celebrates 40 years of friendly invasion

Tim Jones looks back at Lord Montagu's pioneer decades in the stately home business

LORD Montagu of Beaulieu — the man who shocked some of his aristocratic friends by saving his inheritance from debts and disaster by allowing his *hot polloi* to roam over the estate which since 1538 has been the family home — was yesterday celebrating the fortieth anniversary of his venture.

Lord Montagu, who succeeded to the Hampshire estate on his 25th birthday in 1951, admitted that in an ideal world the stately homes of England would still be private worlds enclosed by miles of brick walls and guarded by grand iron gates.

As he prepared to welcome the 20 millionth visitor to Britain's most-visited privately owned historic house, he said: "I suppose the hardest thing to take was the invasion of privacy. But having decided to open the doors, the most important thing was to make visitors feel welcome and to provide them with an interesting experience. I believe I have achieved this. I suppose some of the older peers were

horrified by the need to turn our homes into businesses but to maintain Beaulieu it has all been worth it."

His great coup was to introduce in 1952, as a tribute to his motoring pioneer father, what *The Times* then described as "a collection of veteran motor cars and automobiles of the Edwardian period". Since then, Beaulieu's national motor museum has become world-renowned and this year features 12 of the private vehicles which members of the royal family have owned or used over the past 40 years.

To keep the family pile, he has also organized jazz festivals there and re-established the monastic tradition of

wine production on the estate.

When Beaulieu first opened, on April 8, 1952, 8,000 curious members of the public paid in the first week one old half-crown, or 12.5p, to see how the other half lived. Visitors to Beaulieu are now charged an adult entrance fee of £6.75, although the lavatories are free. At one time, Lord Montagu considered women to be lavatory wreckers and said they should be charged 3d instead of 1d to answer the call of nature.

In spite of running the great home as a profitable venture, Lord Montagu considers the aristocratic guardians of the national treasures are still hard done by. He thinks money set aside exclusively for maintenance should be exempt from tax and that repair bills should also be free of VAT.

Lord Montagu said: "Looking back to 1952 is like a moment recently gone, but seeing Beaulieu as it is today I realise how much, yet how little, has changed."

Lenders 'ordered men to rob'

TWO men who owed debts to moneylenders were forced to carry out robberies to pay their debts, a court was told yesterday. They were beaten, then ordered to hold up a building society and hand the cash to the lenders.

William Mannion, 27, almost died when attackers kicked down his door and stabbed him with a bayonet after he told the lenders that he would do no more, his counsel, Alan Turnbull, told the High Court in Glasgow. Mannion, of Pollok, Glasgow, was jailed for five years after admitting robbery.

Thomas Mougan, 30, also of Pollok, was jailed for six years. The court was told that he owed £1,800 after borrowing £500 to help to care for his sick girl friend. He joined the robberies when she was threatened in hospital.

The judge, Lord Caplan, said that the accused could have gone to the police instead of agreeing to the robberies.

Crime rise strains Scots prosecutors

By KERRY GILL

THE increasing level of crime in Scotland is putting strain on its prosecutors, the Scottish Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service admitted yesterday in their first annual report following the introduction of the government's justice charter.

Duncan Lowe, the Crown agent, said that the service was being stretched by a growing level of serious crime and the time taken to prepare cases. The procurators fiscal prosecute in criminal cases at sheriff and district court level, and are involved in investigations for high court cases.

The report was the first to provide information relating to the Crown's performance in prosecutions in Scotland. It was drawn up as a result of the justice charter, to give the public a better understanding of the service's work.

Mr Lowe said that, in spite of rising crime, the service was managing to cope. He denied a BBC report that justice in

Glasgow was suffering because of too little interviewing by staff of witnesses in sheriff and jury cases. Only 42 cases, 15 per cent, had been dealt with by the "accelerated preparation" procedure in Glasgow.

Mr Lowe said that this was only a temporary measure to deal with bulges in serious criminal work during a period when the office was understaffed. It had operated with the full knowledge and consent of Lord Rodger of Earlsferry, the Lord Advocate.

Mr Lowe also denied that there had been a loss of morale within the service as a result of increased work. There had been a record number of applications during a recent recruitment drive, he said.

Targets have been set within the service for bringing all cases to court, and most of Scotland's six regional fiscal offices met the criteria, or did so soon after guidelines were introduced.

Carnival organisers celebrate

By BILL FROST

ORGANISERS of the Nottingham Hill carnival, which was this year marked by a sharp fall in reported crime and arrests, yesterday described the weekend as an unprecedented success.

The carnival committee claimed that over a million revellers had converged on the north London streets during the two-day party. Scotland Yard suggested that only 300,000 took part.

A spokesman for the committee said yesterday: "Carnival has never been more successful. We would like to thank all those who attended. The spectacle and the magic have justified all our hard work."

Police expressed satisfaction with the way the carnival went too, although there were isolated outbreaks of violence as the celebration drew to a cacophonous close on Monday night. There were 75 arrests during the carnival, compared with 100 last year.

In Chapelton, Leeds, police were attacked and injured by a missile-throwing crowd on Sunday night as they rescued two people in a car which had hit a group of pedestrians, injuring at least two, after a carnival.

Japanese spend more than bawbees

By KERRY GILL

SEIICHIRO Otsuka, until this summer Japan's consul-general for Scotland, is not the first of his countrymen to embrace Scottish culture, but he must surely be the most enthusiastic. When not practising the bagpipes with his Edinburgh tutor he was putting the finishing touches to his "Address to a Golf Ball", a remarkably accomplished pastiche of Robb Burns running to 22 lines in the "Auld Scots tongue".

It emerged yesterday that thousands of Mr Otsuka's fellow Japanese are following in his footsteps across Scotland's golf courses, through ruined castles, souvenir shops, and along the banks of Loch Ness, watching out for the monster. In doing so,

they have become the biggest-spending foreign tourists in Scotland, shelling out no less than an average of £85 each a day, more than twice as much as the Americans.

Last year 33,000 Japanese tourists visited Scotland, twice as many as in 1987. They spent £15 million, according to the Scottish Tourist Board, which is making preparations for a trade mission to Japan. The board aims to increase the number of Japanese visitors to 100,000 by 1994.

Rhona Robertson, marketing director of the board's Japan, Pacific and Australasian unit, said the Japanese were intrigued by Scottish culture. The songs "Auld Lang Syne" and "Annie Laurie" — translated into Japanese — were sung regularly at parties, and the strains of "Coming

Through The Rye" could be heard at Japanese city centre traffic lights as an indication that it was safe to cross.

Even though the Japanese spent an average of only four or five days in Scotland, Ms Robertson said, they had a voracious appetite for quality Scottish goods, such as whisky, cashmere clothing, crystal and kilts.

Only about 8 per cent of Japanese hold passports, but this figure is expected to rise considerably in the next few years, and the Scots are determined to attract as many tourists possible. While the Japanese were formerly conducted on lightning tours of European capitals, the more sophisticated travellers now shunned the regimented package tour, preferring to spend more time in one place, Ms Robertson said.

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Maastricht support gathers pace

'No' campaign rejects prophecy of doom

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

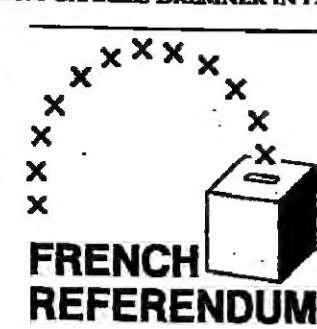
WITH the "yes" campaign for Maastricht gaining momentum in France, opponents of the treaty yesterday accused the government of trying to spare the electorate from the predictions of disaster.

Both conservative and left-wing politicians spoke out against the recent main theme of the Mitterrand administration and leaders of the centre-right opposition: that failure to ratify Maastricht would effectively bring down France and destroy the European Community. The argument has drawn heavily on images of renewed German militarism should a "no" vote force the "Franco-German couple" to divorce.

"They're telling us a 'no' will lead to a frightful catastrophe," Jean-Pierre Chevènement, leader of the anti-Maastricht faction in the government's own Socialist party, said. This, he said, was as groundless as the alarmist talk in 1969 (when de Gaulle put his fortunes on the line in a referendum, which he lost) and 1981 (when the establishment gave warning of dire consequences should François Mitterrand be elected to the presidency).

Max Gallo, another Socialist dissident, accused the government of verbal terrorism. Jean François Deniau, a former minister under Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and a veteran of Community affairs, said: "Refusing Maastricht will not mean breaking Europe. This verbal violence is inadmissible."

The consequences of a "no" vote is emerging as the crucial issue as both sides seek to win over the 40 per cent of voters who are telling opinion pollsters that they are still undecided. This stems from the fact that a great majority of the French strongly support the EC and cannot imagine France going it alone. Only the extreme right National Front wants France to withdraw behind its own frontiers.



FRENCH REFERENDUM

Opponents from the mainstream opposition, such as Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist baron, and dissidents on the left have been scoring heavy points by calling for a "pro-European 'no'" against what they see as a flawed treaty which would open the way to renegotiation, a healthier Community and, ultimately, would support the Franco-German partnership. Specifically, they reject the old tandem image, cherished by the government, which holds that if the momentum towards integration is broken, the Franco-German cyclists will come crashing to the ground.

The idea of an innocuous "constructive no" is especially attractive to those who see the referendum as a means of demonstrating their dislike of Mitterrand and his government and even of removing them from office. The less educated may be happy to tell pollsters they have had enough of foreigners but, in more elevated circles, the constructive "no" is the only acceptable way of justifying a negative vote.

The attraction of the constructive "no" has sent Mitterrand's ministers and allies far into the realm of hyperbole in an effort to convince voters that, without Maastricht, France will be relegated to the dustbin of history. Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, is talking of immediate financial crisis and eventually a German march to the East.

In more diplomatic language, Roland Dumas, the

foreign minister, said yesterday: "Europe is up against the wall. If by mistake France does not ratify the treaty of Maastricht, European construction will fall apart."

In his televised debate with M Séguin today, Mitterrand is expected to paint a loftier version of the tandem image, reminding his country of four glorious decades of European achievement from the days of de Gaulle and Adenauer through to the Mitterrand-Kohl duo. The German chancellor, unlike John Major, will be making a cameo appearance in support of the French president. Two heavyweights on the right, Raymond Barre, the former prime minister and Jean-François Poncet, a former foreign minister, yesterday lent their weight to the catastrophe scenario.

George Brock, page 11
Diary, page 11
Dollar weak, page 15



Clowning glory: Oleg Popov, 64, the Russian clown, embracing his bride, Gabrielle Lehman, 30, a German circus artiste, in Breda, The Netherlands

PEOPLE

Dissident presses for bar on Iliescu

Romania's best known dissident of the communist era, Doina Cornea, urged electoral authorities to bar President Iliescu from running for a second term.

"Ion Iliescu is not up to his present function of president of this country," she said in a letter addressed to the central electoral office and published by the independent daily newspaper, *Romania Libera*. Miss Cornea, 62, one of few dissidents who dared to speak out against communist rule under the late Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, urged the authorities to cancel Mr Iliescu's candidacy in the September 27 presidential election.

"His actions showed incompetence and bad will and caused violence, illegal arrests and victims among innocent citizens," she said, citing the violence of June 1990 when 20,000 coalminers, summoned to Bucharest by Mr Iliescu, crushed an anti-government protest.

President Cesar Gaviria of Colombia said that he and some cabinet members were at

fault politically for the July jailbreak of the drug baron, Pablo Escobar, but said he would maintain his policy of encouraging drug traffickers to surrender in exchange for reduced sentences for crimes to which they confess.

China's southern special economic zone of Zhuhai, one of the frontrunners of Deng Xiaoping's programme of capitalist reform, will hold a party to honour the 88-year-old senior leader, an official newspaper said in Peking.

German prosecutors said they would decide tomorrow whether to keep Erich Honecker, 80, the former East German leader, in custody or release him on health grounds.

Michael Ritchie and Dennis Hopper will replace fellow American director Peter Bogdanovich on the jury for the Venice Film Festival after he withdrew from the panel citing conflicts with his work schedule.

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King of gypsies loses his crown

Republican sentiment has robbed the Romany community of its leader, Roger Boyes writes

No royal family, it seems, is safe in these most republican of times. Now it is the turn of the Great Bulibasha, the king of East Europe's gypsies who has been stripped of his golden crown.

The communiqué from Romania's constitutional court was crisp and to the point: "The self-nomination of Mr Ion Cioaba, resident at 46 Alba Iulia Street, Sibiu, to be King of the Romanians in Romania and the whole world is deemed to be against the constitution."

Mr Cioaba, a plump man in his mid-50s, has been regarded as Romania's gypsy chief for years. According to the official census there are 409,000 gypsies in Romania but unofficial estimates are pitched as high as 2 million.

Since Romania has the largest gypsy community of any country, whoever rules it is regarded as the most powerful figure in the gypsy world. There are said to be about 5 million gypsies in Eastern Europe, making up half of the world's total. Mr Cioaba, known as the Great Bulibasha, is thus somebody to be reckoned with.

After the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu, the communist dictator, Romania's gypsies became more politically assertive and were allowed to organize their own parties and own their own newspapers. Last autumn Mr Cioaba took the next logical step and arranged for his coronation with a gold crown weighing over 1.5 lb.

The United Nations, meanwhile, chose Mr Cioaba to be the spokesman for gypsy interests throughout the European and American continents. The Great Bulibasha proved his worth by immediately lobbying Bonn for compensation for the 35,000 Romanians killed in the second world war in German concentration camps in the Ukraine and the Trans-dniester.

If Bonn did not pay up,



Cioaba: no more the Great Bulibasha

he threatened, a million gypsies would slip into Germany and put their case personally.

Mr Cioaba knows well the secret gypsy routes from East to West. According to one story, he applied to the Ceausescu regime to attend an international gypsy congress.

As usual the request was not approved until six months after the congress had taken place. "It's okay," Mr Cioaba is supposed to have told a hapless clerk. "I don't need the passport - I went anyway."

European borders are very porous for the likes of Mr Cioaba. The gypsy king has been making demands of the post Ceausescu government: distribution of camping sites, land ownership rights, more training and jobs for the Romany community. But there are many competing gypsy groups - six separate gypsy parties are contesting the parliamentary elections later this month - and not all of them approve of Mr Cioaba's autocratic rule.

They thus lodged a complaint about Mr Cioaba's coronation with the constitutional court. The Romanian leadership, already paranoid about the return of the country's King Michael, was only too happy to rule against the Great Bulibasha.

Arab states and Iran move closer to jihad in the Balkans



Fahd: he has donated more than £4 million

NEGLECT of Bosnia and the apparent helplessness of its army are fuelling the anger of Arab states and Iran and driving the Islamic world closer to declaring a jihad (holy war) in the Balkans.

All the pent-up tension between Islam and the Christian West seems now to be concentrating on the Bosnian war. Graphic accounts of the rape of Muslim women that have been circulating around Middle Eastern embassies and information ministries are partly to blame. Part to blame, too, is the bombardment of mosques, while frustration with Western reluctance to commit a large military force to the region is also a factor.

The commentator of *Al-Riad*, a Saudi Arabian newspaper, described the Bosnian fighting as a "prelude to the war between Islam and the West". Both *Al-Riad*, and *Al-*

Pent-up tension between Islam and the Christian West seems now to be concentrated on the Bosnian war, Roger Boyes, East Europe correspondent, writes. Frustration with Western reluctance to intervene militarily has been exacerbated by graphic accounts of Muslim women being raped and mosques destroyed

Jaum, another Saudi paper, called on Muslims to declare a jihad to "save Islam". The initial Middle Eastern response to the war was to offer large donations to help the Bosnian Muslim refugees. King Fahd, the Saudi ruler, has given \$5 million (£4.03 million) of his personal fortune and a further \$37 million has been collected in his country. Shaikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, the emir of Kuwait, has donated \$5 million and Pakistan has offered a \$10 million loan.

But the line between Islamic humanitarian gifts and military aid has become fuzzy since June. Islamic teams are delivering medical supplies

directly to Bosnian troops. Since the London conference, and the obvious reluctance of the West to send in troops, the Middle Eastern states have become even more inclined to include military equipment in their aid shipments.

Stern, the Hamburg magazine, recently quoted the Muslim mayor of Konjic, a town near Sarajevo, as saying that Bosnian government forces had received large deliveries of arms from Islamic countries. Rusmir Hadzihusejnovic told the magazine: "Two weeks ago we received the first weapon deliveries. 32 lorries full, and in recent days another 60 trucks have arrived in Konjic." He said the

munitions, including rifles and anti-aircraft rockets, were taken through mountain roads from the Croatian ports of Split and Rijeka. Croatian authorities have not denied that such shipments are being made.

The battle for Islamic influence in the Balkans has been apparent for more than a year. After centuries of Ottoman rule, the Turks know the region better than any Middle Eastern state and probably better than any European. Moreover, two million people of Bosnian Muslim origin live in Turkey, which has tended to make Ankara comparatively cautious about an all-out military intervention that

would suddenly pit Islam against the Christian West. Turkey believes, however, that there is a need to act quickly to stop the spread of war to other Muslim regions, notably Kosovo, and to contain the ambitions of Iran, which has earmarked \$10 billion for new arms procurement between 1990 and 1994.

But apart from this jostling for position, there is a genuine emotional commitment to Bosnian Muslims, stoked up by the state-controlled media of the Middle East. There is surely no mosque in the Gulf that has not been drumming up donations for the Bosnian cause.

The justification for this involvement comes out in a historically mangled form. *Al-Hayat*, the London-based newspaper that is close to the Saudi royal family, said recently that Bosnia risked becoming the new Palestine,

said. Hasiz al-Sheikh, a Bahrain commentator, argues that the West is ignoring Bosnia in much the same way that it ignored the Holocaust. Guilt about this neglect subsequently led to five decades of pro-Israeli bias and "Jewish blackmail", he said.

There are some oddities in this enthusiastic involvement. The first is that Bosnian Muslims are certainly not the most devout of the faithful in Europe. Their conversion more than 500 years ago was pragmatic: Bosnian landowners could keep their estates under the Ottomans if they swore allegiance to Islam.

The other strange element in the loud Arab press campaign for a jihad is that the Arab media are by and large ignoring the disaster in Somalia, an almost entirely Muslim country and a member of the Arab League. Yemen, one of the poorest

Arab states, is so far the only country to take in large numbers of Somali refugees, and there are even reports that the Saudi authorities have been turning away boatloads of Somalis.

The conclusion must be that more than Islamic solidarity or straightforward human sympathy is involved: the Middle East states want to retain an Islamic foothold in the new ordering of Europe and seem, in pursuit of this aim, to be ready to fund a war. Whether they fully understand this war, or the Bosnians, is another matter.

For Muslims it is a cause, a just cause, that has arrived at a strategically appropriate moment. Europe is being shaped and it is important for the Middle Eastern states to show that Muslims have a place on the continent, too.

Waiting for winter, page 1

Shevardnadze condemns attack on unit

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PROSPECTS for an early end to bloodshed on the Black Sea coast of Georgia darkened yesterday after the republic's leader, Eduard Shevardnadze, accused Russian forces of firing on his troops and questioned the value of peace talks set for tomorrow.

Mr Shevardnadze said he had telephoned President Yeltsin to complain that Russian troops attacked a Georgian unit with missiles while it crossed a river north of Sukhumi, capital of the ethnic war zone of Abkhazia. Several men of the Georgian army, whose battle against ethnic Abkhazian separatists has already cost at least 150 lives, were killed in the encounter.

The former Soviet foreign minister said he was sceptical of Mr Yeltsin's insistence that no orders to open fire had been issued to the Russian forces. "We have information that there was such an order. If this information is con-

firmed, then the meeting on September 3 makes no sense," said Mr Shevardnadze, who had been invited to Moscow for the talks.

He said Russian and Georgian officers were investigating the shooting incident. The Russian defence ministry stated indignantly that its troops in Abkhazia, a resort area of northwest Georgia where separatist leaders in effect declared independence in July, were scrupulously observing neutrality.

The ministry said Moscow's forces were simply protecting their own barracks and other military facilities such as an army laboratory in Sukhumi, where guards had refrained from realising in the face of repeated Georgian shelling. It was from this laboratory that the Russians were accused of firing by Gela Karakashvili, the local Georgian commander.

Russia's military units in Transcaucasia, which have dwindled through withdrawals and desertion to a fraction of their nominal strength of 500,000, have made a bewildering variety of deals with local politicians, with or without the blessing of Moscow.

The prospect of Russian troops openly supporting the Abkhazian community will stir bitter memories among Georgians. They suspect Moscow of having egged on the Ossetians, another separatist minority, in a two-year racial war which only recently subsided.

Mr Shevardnadze enjoys good relations with Russian commanders in Tbilisi and has procured from them substantial amounts of heavy weaponry to help him in his battles against ethnic separatists and supporters of his ousted rival, Zviad Gamsakhurdia. But Russian commanders in Sukhumi, as well as President Yeltsin himself, may have been influenced by pro-Abkhazian sentiment among hardline politicians in Moscow and by the Muslim peoples of the northern Caucasus who have sent thousands of volunteers to fight in Georgia.

Leading article, page 11



Tajikistan rebels hold ministers

BY BRUCE CLARK

TAJIKISTAN, the former Soviet republic, moved a step closer to violent disintegration yesterday after militant opposition supporters seized control of the presidential palace from Rakhmon Nabyev, the hard-line communist leader.

The northern region of Leninabad, a stronghold of support for Mr Nabyev, immediately renewed its pledge to secede from the republic.

The Russian garrison in Tajikistan, which accuses the opposition of making common cause with armed bands in northern Afghanistan, insisted that Mr Nabyev was still in office and working from another building. The military denied allegations from the opposition, which includes secular reformers and Muslim clerics, that it was sheltering the president.

The armed raiders who seized the presidential palace took hostage several members of the government, including the deputy prime minister and the mayor of Dushanbe. They demanded an end to violence by government supporters in two regions of Tajikistan—the Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab areas—where clashes between political factions have threatened to degenerate into Afghan-style anarchy.

The new outbreak of violence in Tajikistan marks a breakdown of a delicately engineered compromise: deal struck last May under which Mr Nabyev was allowed to remain in power but had to concede several key posts to opposition supporters. Since then, both political camps have fragmented, with Mr Nabyev under fire from politicians even more hardline than himself and the opposition divided.



Sailing to safety: holidaymakers from former Soviet republics boarding a ship at Suchumi to flee rising violence in Georgian Abkhazia

Police sift wreckage after car crash leaves Dubcek injured

FROM GERARD DAVIES IN PRAGUE

ALEXANDER Dubcek, the hero of the 1968 Prague Spring, was seriously injured in a car crash yesterday when his BMW left the road, rolled over, and plunged into a ravine. Mr Dubcek, 70, a Slovak, broke his spine, pelvis and ribs, surgeons said.

The accident threatens to remove Mr Dubcek from politics at a critical time, as the country approaches an official split into two independent states on January 1. Mr Dubcek, the leader of Slovakia's Social Democratic party, has been widely tipped to stand for the new post of Slovak president.

The crash happened in wet conditions near the town of Humpolec, 60 miles southeast of Prague, at about 9.30am. Mr Dubcek was to hospital in Jihlava, southern Moravia, and later lifted, still conscious, by helicopter to Prague.

It is the third car crash of a senior Czechoslovak official in the past year. None has been explained satisfactorily, and police were yesterday hunting through the wreckage for clues.

Irena Varkolierova, a police spokeswoman, said: "A full investigation is proceeding under the local traffic police, but we cannot be sure what happened until we have spoken to the driver."

Mr Dubcek, a shy politician, came to symbolise in the West the efforts of a small country to resist political pressure and military intervention. After the 1968 Soviet-led invasion, which crushed his "socialism with a human face", he was ousted as leader of the Czechoslovak Communist party, flown to Moscow in chains, and sent to work in the forests of Slovakia. He was stripped of his party membership, and

became a "non-person". In Czechoslovakia's "velvet revolution" of 1989, he was brought on to a balcony overlooking Prague's Wenceslas Square, and cheered by thousands of demonstrators.

He returned to politics as chairman of the federal parliament, overseeing the transition to democracy.

Mr Dubcek is still immensely popular and influential at home, and enjoys high international prestige. Many, however, have called for his retirement, accusing him of failing to stand up to Moscow 24 years ago.

Mr Dubcek was again cast in the role of saviour, as Czechoslovakia reached the brink of disintegration this summer. He fought to save the 74-year-old federation, but last week the largest Czech and Slovak parties failed to agree on a common future.

Phone bills to snare Italy's tax dodgers

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

ITALIAN tax authorities are planning to use telephone bills as an indication of income in an attempt to catch some of the country's many tax evaders.

The tax authorities have long used the possession of certain luxury goods to estimate the incomes of citizens suspected of making dishonest returns. The extent of the country's public deficit has led them to update the list, adding the possession of cars, fishing rights, powerful motorcycles and private aeroplanes to previous indicators of wealth.

In 1991, tax inspectors detected 600,000 inaccurate tax declarations, 89 per cent of the cases examined. These inaccurate declarations were estimated to have cost the nation more than £15 billion in lost revenue. Not all that sum will eventually find its way into

government coffers, as much of it is dissipated in costly and protracted litigation.

A series of complex calculations is used to produce a figure for the expected annual income of the owners of particular luxury items, according to a system known here as the "income-ometer". In the case of telephones, for example, the authorities take the total bills for one year, subtract £600, and multiply the remaining figure by 10. The resulting figure is the amount of income the taxpayer would expect the telephone owner to declare.

Not everyone is convinced of the system's efficacy. "It's like trying to calculate how much someone has eaten by measuring the circumference of his belly," said Bruno Visentini, a former finance minister. Other critics say the only luxury item still missing from the list is a mistress.

Troops trained

Bonn: Germany is preparing four army battalions to take part in United Nations peace-keeping missions by 1994, Volker Rübe, the defence minister, said. German officers were being trained in countries with experience of UN operations.

Activist held

Peking: Shen Tong, a student leader who fled to the United States after the army crackdown of 1989 and returned a month ago, was arrested after hiring activists to set up a branch of his US-based Democracy for China Fund.

Navy mustered

Hong Kong: Hong Kong has mustered British Royal Navy vessels to protect the colony's waters from incursions by Chinese security forces after raids on two Vietnam-bound ships, Ian Strachan, the acting secretary for security, said. (Reuters)

Visit planned

Peking: President Yeltsin is expected to visit China in December. It will be the first official meeting between the man who buried Soviet communism and the Marxists who ordered the repression of China's pro-democracy movement in 1989. (Reuters)

Raiders return

Phnom Penh: An anti-Vietnamese insurgent force of some 400 tribesmen, lost for years in the mountains of northeast Cambodia after the CIA abandoned it, has sought refugee status in a meeting with United Nations peacekeepers. (Reuters)

Election stands

Colombo: Sri Lanka's supreme court dismissed a petition challenging the election of President Premadasa in 1988. The petition was filed by Sirima Bandaranaike, who contested the post. People set off fireworks here to greet the decision.

Marxist freed

Manila: The Philippines conditionally freed Samir Ocampo, the Marxist guerrilla leader, three years after his arrest, while a bill legalising the communist party was approved in moves towards ending a 23-year communist insurgency. (Reuters)

Roses for teacher as Moscow school goes private

Anne McElvoy visits one of the first private schools in Russia on the opening day of its first term

private school in Moscow with parents paying 10,000 roubles—the equivalent of two months' workers' salary—to send their children here.

Mr Khorovov has promised excellence in teaching, high standards of discipline and that every child will have good enough grades to enter higher education on leaving. It is a far cry from the old forced egalitarianism and glorification of manual labour of Soviet days.

The teachers have rewritten many of the textbooks themselves and are highly motivated, not least because they earn twice the national average. They find it hard to grasp questions about the rightness of private schooling alongside the state system. In Russia nowadays, everything has its price and it seems perfectly natural that a better education can be secured with

money. There is a miniature generation gap between children of the Soviet days and their younger schoolmates. The 9- and 10-year-olds in Class 5 have seen their world change and have vague memories of a different culture to pass on to their own offspring.

Bare nails in the classroom walls betray where pictures of Marx and Lenin used to hang. Mrs Sashkova, who teaches maths, has brisely depoliticised her four walls by replacing the old portraits with Archimedes and Nikolai Laborchevsky, the Russian mathematician of the 19th century who proved that parallel lines never converge.

Gone are the outside photographs of Soviet sportsmen waiting to world prominence. The obsession with sport remains, but a picture of Mickey Mouse in an



Rival heroes: Soviet spaceman Yuri Gagarin must take second place these days to Donald Duck



Adidas T-shirt invites the children to the gym club rather than a real life role model. Heroes are hard to find in the new Russia. Idols have crashed without substitutes being found to replace them in the minds of children, teachers and parents.

Asked who their heroes are, the children in Class Five obediently put up their hands and wait to be asked to speak before leaping to their feet.

the shops," said Natasha, sporting pink bangles and an earnest gaze. "He's a bad man because he killed the Tsar," enjoined another.

One youngster attempted the rearward defence that Lenin wasn't all bad, to universal scorn. Why did he still think Lenin was good? asked the teacher. The boy squirmed as he tried to recall the half-digested lessons of yesterday. "Because he commanded our brave troops and beat the Germans," he said, neatly conflating the two great mythologies of Soviet life into one.

What did they want to be when they grew up? There was the usual clutch of would-be teachers and doctors and two hopeful millionaires but barely a budding engineer in sight. Oleg wanted to be a pilot. "Wouldn't it be more exciting to be a cosmonaut?" asked Mrs Sashkova. Oleg shook his head fiercely and said that he didn't want to fly to the moon, just to America.

Anne McElvoy is *The Times*' new bureau chief in Moscow.

Russian ship for Gulf port Shias stir re

Tehran annexes strategic island

another 12 monks die in custody

Mount

Russian ships head for Gulf patrol as Shias stir rebellion

By MICHAEL EVANS IN LONDON AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA

TWO Russian warships are to be sent to the Gulf as a contribution to the international effort to tighten sanctions against Iraq. It is the first time Moscow has offered ships to enforce maritime trade curbs under United Nations resolution 687.

The anti-submarine ship *Admiral Vinogradov* and the tanker *Boris Butoma* are expected to sail within the next ten days. Valeri Novikov, the Russian navy spokesman, said. The deployment of the warships could signal a change in Russia's policy towards Iraq, Moscow backed the coalition during last year's Gulf war but refused to take part in armed conflict against Iraq, its longtime ally. Two Russian warships also patrolled the Gulf before the war but did not join the other vessels enforcing the UN arms

embargo. The announcement coincided with renewed efforts to stir an anti-government rebellion in the Shia-Muslim dominated south of Iraq to capitalise on the new aerial exclusion zone imposed by the allies on all Iraqi flights below the 32nd parallel.

Two leading Syrian-based Iraqi opposition groups called on Iraqi exiles to return to the area under the allied umbrella and on Iraqi officials and members of the armed forces to cross over and join a new rebellion aimed at toppling President Saddam Hussein.

The Russian announcement will provide a political boost for the Americans who have a strong naval force in the Gulf and for President Bush who has sought broad international support in the latest confrontation with Iraq. Both ships belong to the

Russian Pacific Fleet, based in the Far East, and were chosen for the mission because the fleet had "extensive experience of operations in the Gulf region over past years", Mr Novikov said.

The deployment of the two vessels will be the first movement of Russian ships outside their home ports for a long period. There are no Russian naval ships in the Indian Ocean or the Mediterranean. Tass quoted Colonel-General Viktor Dulyagin, chief of staff of Russia's armed forces, as saying that the ships would "take part in the mission of the international peacekeeping force" under the UN Security Council resolution on Iraq. They will take two weeks to reach the Gulf.

A UN spokesman said there was no programme of sanctions enforcement, but member states were authorised under the resolution to take whatever action they felt was necessary to stop sanctions breaches. Since the Gulf war, the Iraqi port of Basra has been out of action and there have been no ship movements in the Shatt-al-Arab waterway. However, American and British warships have been monitoring the Gulf to prevent illegal shipments of goods to Iraq. The Royal Navy's contribution consists of two warships, HMS *Edinburgh* and HMS *Chatham*, and a Royal Fleet Auxiliary support vessel, *Brambleleaf*.

Last year's bloody uprising in southern Iraq was defeated by troops and security police loyal to Saddam, while allied soldiers looked on powerless to intervene because at that time American policy was not to risk the establishment of a Shia-dominated state allied to Iran.

The Damascus headquarters of the Islamic Action Organisation and the Dawra Group, both of which took part in last year's abortive revolt, called on Iraq's opposition factions to form a joint front to fill the political void that Saddam's overthrow would cause.

The co-ordinated calls reflected strong hopes among the Western allies that the strict flight ban would encourage disaffected members of the Iraqi armed forces to defect in large numbers to areas under the allied umbrella and help to fuel a coup against Saddam.

Before the ban came into effect last week, helicopters were often used by its security network to stifle military discontent - believed to be widespread - by flying to units where loyalists reported it and taking away suspected ringleaders for torture and execution.

The Islamic Action Organisation said that it backed the creation of a safe haven in the South similar to that created for Kurds in the North, providing it did not lead to the partitioning of Iraq, the main fear among most Arab governments.

● **Patrol plane:** Six European aircraft makers yesterday announced that they would develop a maritime patrol aircraft for the next century. British Aerospace, Alenia of Italy, Casa of Spain, Dassault Aviation of France, Deutsche Aerospace of Germany, and Fokker of The Netherlands have created the "Europatrol" group, a joint statement said.

Tehran annexes strategic island

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

IRAN has, in effect, annexed the small but strategic Gulf island of Abu Musa, which it has controlled jointly with the United Arab Emirates in a British-brokered agreement dating from 1971.

Arab and Western diplomats see the move as "salami diplomacy" designed to take advantage of the West's attention on Iraq. Tehran is treating the island as purely Iranian territory, refusing to talk about anything unless its sovereignty is recognised.

The windswept island, home to about 700 Emiratis citizens and close to the main tanker channel through the Gulf, is the largest of three belonging to the Emirates occupied by Iranian troops in 1971. The two others, known as Large Tunb and Small Tunb, are believed to be uninhabited.

An agreement was arranged by Lord Home of the Hirsel, then British foreign secretary, between the newly formed government of the Emirates and the Shah of Iran, establishing joint ownership of the island, at that time home to about 50 Arab fishing families. Since April, tension has increased in the southern Gulf and fears have been raised about Iran's new claims on pieces of territory on the Arabian side. Reports of an Iranian military build-up on the island and the installation of missile batteries are unconfirmed.

The dispute came to a head last week when Iranian police officers turned back a passenger ferry from Abu Musa, having held it in port for three days. That was the first interference with civilian traffic there since the 1971 pact. Iran said Sharjians resident in Abu Musa were free to come and go as they wished, but others needed Iranian permits.

Tehran declared that because the island belonged to the Iranians, the Iranian government had every right to control the entry of foreigners. "This is creeping annexation," a Western diplomat said. "It looks as though it is entering its final stages."

The dispute resurfaced in April when Iranian police,

who had previously dealt only with Iranian residents of the island, started checking identity cards of the rest and insisting that all should obey Iranian laws. The staunchly pro-Western Emirates government alerted the five permanent members of the UN Security Council when the Iranian police deported foreign workers who operated the power station, police post and school.

Subsequent talks in Tehran failed to bring about a solution, undermining efforts by Iran to improve ties with the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council that links the Emirates with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman. Yesterday, Self al-



Maskari, the council assistant secretary-general, said: "Such irresponsible behaviour is likely to reflect itself very negatively on council-Iran ties and create an atmosphere of lack of confidence and tension."

The island's strategic importance has increased because of its position at the heart of the Gulf oilfield. During the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, the Iranians used Abu Musa as a base for speedboat attacks on shipping and oil installations. Western military experts in the Middle East are deeply concerned that if Iran is permitted to swallow Abu Musa, it may not be long before its appetite is switched to other chunks of territory in the region.

● **Nicosia:** Iran's foreign ministry summoned Turkey's ambassador to answer its allegations that Turkish helicopters had chased Kurdish guerrillas across its border, it was reported yesterday. (AP)

Rabin ready to drop plan for Palestinian elections

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL is considering dropping its proposal to hold Palestinian elections in the occupied territories in an effort to bypass a deadlocked issue at the peace negotiations in Washington.

Although until now the prospect of elections being held in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip had been a central pillar of Israel's strategy at the talks, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, suggested on Monday that he would be prepared to deal with an appointed Palestinian leadership just as well as an elected one.

"Israel has no intention of imposing elections on the Palestinians and if the efforts to hold elections encounter difficulties, Israel will propose discussing an autonomous council manned without polls," Mr Rabin said during a meeting with Emilio Colombo, the visiting Italian foreign minister. The remarks appeared to be an attempt to find a solution to the stalemate in Washington, where Israel proposed last week that elections should be held for an administrative council in the occupied territories, an offer rejected by Palestinians who demanded an elected legislative assembly.

The argument led to a bitter exchange of words over the weekend and threatened to bog down the month-long negotiations. Israel accused the Palestinians of trying to create a state in the occupied territories, while Haidar Abdel-Shafi, the leader of the Palestinian delegation, retorted on Monday that the Israeli plans would leave Palestinians "employees of an occupation".

The proposal for elections, which could have taken place as early as next April, were supposed to create a momen-

tum for the transfer of Israeli military authority to a Palestinian autonomous government. But the suggestion that the polls should be scrapped will be met with quiet relief among many Palestinians.

The greatest opponent of the plan was the Tunis-based leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which was privately concerned that elections among the 1.8 million Palestinians of the occupied territories could have created a rival centre of power and eclipsed the role of its veteran leader, Yasser Arafat.

An appointed body also would probably be drawn from the ranks of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, namely Palestinians who broadly support Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction loyal to Mr Arafat. However, an elected body would almost certainly include a large minority of representatives from rival organisations, particularly the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which has a big following, especially in the Gaza Strip.

If the problem of the elec-

tions can be circumvented, negotiations are hopeful that talks can take place in the remaining three weeks of dialogue, where the Israelis and Palestinians are likely to break down their delegations into sub-committees in an attempt to deal with each problem separately. The Israeli delegation to the talks will report to Mr Rabin on Friday.

The negotiators who will return with the most to say are likely to be the team negotiating with Syria, the talks so far have been characterised by optimistic comments from both sides on how to resolve the future of the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967, which Damascus wants back in exchange for peace.

● **Damascus:** Syria's Jews have begun to leave the country in the wake of the easing of travel restrictions. The community has declined by nearly a quarter in the four months since President Assad, apparently at the behest of President Bush, decided to allow Syrian Jews to leave as families.

The community, whose links with Syria date back to biblical times, is mainly elderly. Ibrahim Hamra, the head of the 2,900 Jews still living in the country, is delighted that his community is free to travel and its members are treated "just like other Syrians". Until April, Jews were barred from travelling abroad as families. Mr Hamra said that most of the 850 Jews who had left since then had gone to America.

Syria limits travel allowances to £1,000. Asked what happened to the assets of Jews who left, he said those who departed "were not emigrating for ever" and were leaving their belongings behind until their return. (Reuters)

Abdel-Shafi: unhappy with Israeli plans

mountain to hold vigils and shout abuse at federal agents and police.

Mr Weaver and his wife were followers of a doctrine which claims that Europeans are the lost tribe of Israel, and that Jews and blacks are satanic. In the 1980s federal authorities began following Mr Weaver's movements after an informer said he was involved in selling arms to the Aryan nations.

His supporters, however, say he was framed by the FBI because he refused to help with an investigation into that group. Federal authorities have denied that there is any connection between the massive operation to capture Mr Weaver and his extreme beliefs.

"You can believe anything you want to in this country," a spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms told *The New York Times*. "But it's when you start getting involved in the trafficking of illegal weapons that we get concerned."

Bar wants Collor impeached

FROM MAC MARGOLIS IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THE presidents of the Brazilian bar association and press association, Marcelo Lavenere and Barbosa Lima Sobrinho, delivered a formal petition to congress yesterday calling for the impeachment of President Collor de Mello for "betrayal of the people and abuse of the public confidence".

Two days earlier, Senator Collor vehemently denied on radio and television charges made by a congressional investigating panel that he winked at corruption and illegally profited from clandestine business deals by friends. Many political observers have described his speech as a valiant attempt by a floundering leader to shore up a collapsing government.

The president is losing support in congress daily. He must amass the support of at least two thirds of the lower house if he is to be able to block impeachment.

Bush flies south to curb storm damage

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

TRYING to silence the lingering criticism of Washington's initial response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Andrew last week, President Bush yesterday left Washington before dawn to tour south Florida and Louisiana.

Dismissing claims that his visit was inspired by electoral considerations, Mr Bush insisted that he was demonstrating his commitment to the victims of the worst natural disaster in American history. His trip capped a four-day effort by the White House to get on top of a domestic situation that has weakened Mr Bush's support in Florida, traditionally a Republican stronghold and a key state in his re-election plans.

Soon after Mr Bush, accompanied by his wife Barbara and Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, left Washington, Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, repeated his call for an enquiry into how the federal government handled relief operations in the three days immediately after the hurri-

cane struck and why it took so long to send in aid. Opinion polls in Florida before Andrew indicated that Mr Bush and the Arkansas governor were neck and neck.

At Homestead, one of the worst-hit towns in south Florida, Mr Bush, sweating after only a few minutes in the 29C (84F) heat and 79 per cent humidity, praised the spirit of the victims and those assisting in "the best co-operative effort in a national disaster that this country has ever seen". He told reporters he had come to the state "to be sure that nothing is falling through the cracks". He briefly visited one of the tent cities put up by some of the 18,000 troops now in the state to shelter the estimated 250,000 people left homeless by the hurricane.

Whether the White House's flurry of activity can wipe out memories in Florida of the drift in the administration's initial response to the disaster is, however, in doubt.

Political correctness, page 10
Hurricane's cost, page 15

Another 12 blacks die in custody

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

TWELVE blacks have died in police custody in South Africa since the disclosure a month ago by Jonathan Gluckman, a pathologist, that 90 per cent of the 200 people whose post mortem examinations he had conducted after cell deaths had been killed by the police.

Dr Gluckman, made his public disclosures only after approaches to President de Klerk had failed.

The latest prisoner to die in a cell was a domestic worker who had been accused of stealing a few batteries. The police said that eight hours later, she hanged herself from the window bars using her cell blanket. The window was so low that she had to kneel down to do so. The Johannesburg newspaper *The Star* asked yesterday: "How could anyone be driven to suicide by so trivial a charge?"

Mountain siege makes racist a 'hero'

Civil libertarians join right-wing extremists in condemning the police, Ben Macintyre writes from New York

agents. Eleven days ago Mr Weaver, his family and a friend were cornered in their mountain-top cabin after a series of gun-battles in which a federal marshal, Mr Weaver's wife and his son, 13, were all killed, and the friend, Kevin Harris, 24, was wounded.

In the ensuing siege, federal agents, national guardsmen and police surrounded the Weavers' cabin in the Selkirk mountains and James "Bo" Gritz, a former lieutenant colonel in the Green Berets who knew Weaver in the Army Special Services, was brought in to try to persuade him to give himself up.

Mr Harris surrendered on Sunday and is being charged with killing the marshal, and on Monday Mr Gritz convinced Mr Weaver and his

three young daughters to give themselves up.

"He just cried his wife's name, his son's name, and he stood up tall like a man, and we marched tall down the road like we said we were going to," said Mr Gritz, who is a Presidential candidate for the Populist Party and who rapidly became the most interviewed figure as the drama unfolded. Mr Weaver was flown to Boise, Idaho to appear in federal court yesterday.

Throughout the confrontation food was smuggled to the cabin by local supporters and an aggressive crowd of Neo-Nazis, neighbours and members of the racist Aryan Nations group (one of America's largest racist organisations whose headquarters is nearby) assembled at roadblocks leading from the

mountain to hold vigils and shout abuse at federal agents and police.

Mr Weaver and his wife were followers of a doctrine which claims that Europeans are the lost tribe of Israel, and that Jews and blacks are satanic. In the 1980s federal authorities began following Mr Weaver's movements after an informer said he was involved in selling arms to the Aryan nations.

His supporters, however, say he was framed by the FBI because he refused to help with an investigation into that group. Federal authorities have denied that there is any connection between the massive operation to capture Mr Weaver and his extreme beliefs.

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This liberal McCarthyism

Political correctness in America is a way of life, writes Bryan Appleyard

America is entering a dream world, and as ever Hollywood is leading the way. At the Emmy awards on Monday, ritual denunciation was heaped upon the wretched Dan Quayle for his attack on the TV series *Murphy Brown*. He suggested that a single-parent heroine threatened family values. The liberal elite piled awards on the show and acclaimed it as a humane gesture of support for single parents everywhere. Between dumb Dan and smug Candice Bergen, this awful show's star, there is little to choose. But for lovers of America, such as me, it is clear that a terrible choice is being made, a decision, to borrow the title of another TV show, to dream on.

American liberals are currently very pleased with themselves. The grim spectacle of the Republican convention in Houston provided them with, if such a thing were possible, an even softer target than Dan Quayle, a New York Times columnist, pointed out that the anti-abortion rednecks of the GOP had painted themselves into a corner in which a 13-year-old rape victim who terminated her pregnancy could end up in the gas chamber. And everywhere there was complacent, sophisticated disgust with the sight of Bible-belters hogging the podium and, the left claimed, abusing women, blacks and the underprivileged.

Meanwhile, the new McCarthyism of political correctness is raging unabated. PC is not, as some have suggested, a hysterical invention of the conservative press; it is a way of life. In admittedly far-left Massachusetts, car bumpers are now plastered with a range of slogans to signal how slavishly the driver has bought the package — he/she is pro-choice (ie abortion), pro-recycling, anti-Bush and so on and so on. Use the word "girl" over the cocktails and you are as likely to be thrown out as if you had just said "nigger". Suggest environmentalism may have got out of hand and you could have your visa revoked.

But there is another bumper-sticker that should send shudders of self-doubt through this complacent consensus. I saw it glued poignantly to an ancient Chevrolet van. It read: "No more excuses, buy American". Japanese competition has massacred the pride of industrial America, its motor industry, and the great corporate monsters are still failing to respond. The cheapest Mazda or Toyota on the free-ways is visibly better built than all but the most expensive products of GM, Ford or Chrysler. At the top end of the market car-wise, Americans aspire not to Lincolns or Cadillacs but to the Lexus, made by Toyota. Though, even here, PC rears its sanctimonious head: the acceleration figures in the advertisements for the Lexus coupe carry the warning that 0-60 in under seven seconds should absolutely not be tried on any public highway.

The liberal elite notes with alarming coolness that the car-makers are closing plants and are looking to

move south of the border to exploit the low wages and low-regulation economy of Mexico. They speak learnedly of the phenomenon of "distributive manufacturing" in which design and management functions remain in the United States while factories in Illinois and Indiana are closed to open up in Taiwan or China. The labels on even the most expensive American clothes say "Made in China".

The pervasive all-American cult of the training shoe has grown almost entirely out of this phenomenon. With earnest conviction, America's brightest and best cultivate themselves by jogging and pumping iron in footwear untouched by the hands of the American working class.

Liberal sages speak optimistically of a "headquarters economy", a white-collar culture whose brains and money put eager foreigners to work. It is a quaint, imperialistic

image, evoking the benign paternalism of Ruskin. It suggests that America can do good by doing less. But in the rust belt of the mid-west or the near-anarchy of the inner cities, it must sound like mandarin nonsense.

In the refined air of the eastern seaboard, the new American dream is to be a PC beacon to the world. The new reality threatens to be a society polarised into an educated elite designing ever-more elaborate shoes on Japanese computers and a vast sub-class endlessly patronised and unemployed.

Not, it should be said, that the conservatives are doing much better. The announcement of the death of 1980s conservatism in the liberal press is not entirely premature. The Republican convention was a distressing spectacle. Stripped of the rhetoric of the Cold War, the party embraced a frenzied, incoherent platform of "family values", apparently as a way to display Barbara Bush as a more homey, less frightening figure than Hillary Clinton. It is difficult to imagine democracy in a more decadent phase than one in which unconnected wives are judged on how convincing they would look baking chocolate brownies.

One cannot even discount such madness as the subversive work of the party radicals. George Bush himself has spoken of wanting to see American families more like the Waltons than the Simpsons. The president can do no better than call on two television shows to define the current cultural and moral condition of the most powerful, creative and energetic nation of the 20th century. And, George, at least *The Simpsons* is funny, though it may be the last laugh.

They are all dreaming: the right of a pioneer family on the prairie, the left of a clean, lit, smart America, self-cultivating its way to the new millennium. Of course, it may all be the temporary froth of an election year. But, if it isn't, then boy, as they say, do we have problems.

Use the word 'girl' and you are as likely to be thrown out as if you had said 'nigger'

Many of the alleged links between lifestyle and disease are spurious, argues James Le Fanu

Smoking out the risk

Almost forty years after health minister Ian Macleod told Parliament "There is so far no firm evidence of the way in which smoking may cause lung cancer or the extent to which it does so," the Home Office has recognised the firmness of the evidence. From now on, doctors can write "smoking" on a death certificate as a contributory cause of death.

In the meantime, millions of people, though scarcely conversant with the subtleties of statistical evidence, are convinced that smoking really does kill. Have done the sensible thing and packed it in. Yet understanding the intellectual arguments by which smoking has been incriminated is perhaps more important than ever. For these arguments provide the most potent refutation of the hundreds of claims that have been made in recent years about the risks of everyday life.

Alcohol, for example, besides its known association with liver sclerosis, has been linked with cancers of the breast and bladder, and cooking in aluminium saucepans has been associated with senile dementia. Keeping pets has been linked with multiple sclerosis, sugar with

diabetes, heart diseases and gallstones; and a high fat diet has been implicated in virtually everything.

The most lucid exposition of the link between smoking and lung cancer was provided by the late Sir Austin Bradford Hill, who along with Sir Richard Doll provided the first hard evidence in the early 1950s. The technique was simple: take one group of people with the disease being studied and a control group, and look for differences in their lives.

Sure enough there are many more smokers among those with lung cancer. By itself such a finding, though interesting, proves only that there is an association between the two phenomena. To prove the relationship between smoking and lung cancer is *causal*, Sir Austin maintained, it was necessary to show that the evidence was internally coherent, so that no matter from which angle the question was tackled, it always produces

the same result. He specified some criteria.

The association must be strong: lung cancer is ten times commoner in smokers than non-smokers. It must be consistent: 35 separate studies have confirmed this. It has to hold over time: the change in smoking is paralleled by a change in incidence of lung cancer. There must be a biological gradient: the more an individual smokes, the higher the risk of disease. Ideally it should be confirmed by experiment: those who stop smoking reduce their risk of lung cancer over time in a predictable way.

These criteria of causality Sir Austin dubbed his "canons of statistical proof". There might, of course, be additional causes of lung cancer. A rare type can occur in non-smokers. It is commoner in urban than rural areas, so perhaps pollution is contributory. Not everyone who smokes gets lung cancer, so perhaps some people are protected

by their genes. But these observations are insufficient to annul the overwhelming internal consistency of the evidence that smoking does indeed cause lung cancer.

On the other hand, as soon as one tries to apply Sir Austin's canons to the myriad of other alleged hazards in life, one finds either that there is no evidence or that falls in pieces in one's hands. So, the supposed link between alcohol and breast cancer is based on a large study of nurses, in which those who said they had drunk alcohol in the previous 24 hours subsequently turned out to have a slightly increased incidence of this type of cancer. The association, however, was very weak: it has been contradicted by many other studies; there is no evidence of a biological gradient, and it certainly does not hold over time. The safe and certain conclusion must be that this particular alleged link can be dismissed as statistical garbage.

A similar verdict applies to many of the apparently self-evident beliefs about the alleged harm of the Western diet. The evidence linking heart disease and fat consumption completely fails to satisfy Sir Austin's canons. In Britain, for example, we find that those who suffer heart disease eat exactly the same diet as those who do not; further the rise and fall of the epidemic of the disease over the last 50 years has certainly not been paralleled by changes in fat consumption, for these have been essentially trivial. Thus compared to smoking and lung cancer, the link between fat consumption and heart disease seems very weak indeed, and should be disregarded.

Sir Austin's intellectual legacy is doubly significant. His canons of statistical proof, which so convincingly and logically identified smoking as the commonest most preventable cause of premature death in the Western world, can also, equally effectively, be used to discount the vast majority of the fears and anxieties promulgated by the health lobby in recent years.

The author is a South London GP.

The EC won't stop developing if the French vote No, says George Brock

Invested on almost any conversation among the annals of European diplomats, lobbyists and lawyers trickling back to rain-soaked Brussels from their holidays, and sooner or later you will hear the same question. "Et si le Non l'emporte?", they ask each other. What if the French reject the Maastricht treaty on September 20?

Europe's ambitious engineers of unification are suddenly contemplating the unthinkable. Straw polls confirm the impression that the No campaign has the momentum, while the government's Yes campaign is stumblingly incompetent. If the French defy the advice of President Mitterrand and vote the treaty down, the 250-page text and its intricate recipes for political and monetary union will be dead beyond hope of resurrection. After the Danish rejection in early June, the EC's foreign ministers met in haste to convene and announced that they would pretend that the vote had never happened. This time, the ostrich option is not available.

The consequences of a No would be more momentous for Brussels than for even France's domestic politics. The blueprint for uniting Europe would be in shreds. The wish to unite the continent in a federal union would not fade, for it springs from deep needs and fears often misunderstood in Britain. Countries which have suffered occupation by Germany this century will continue to want the protection that integration offers.

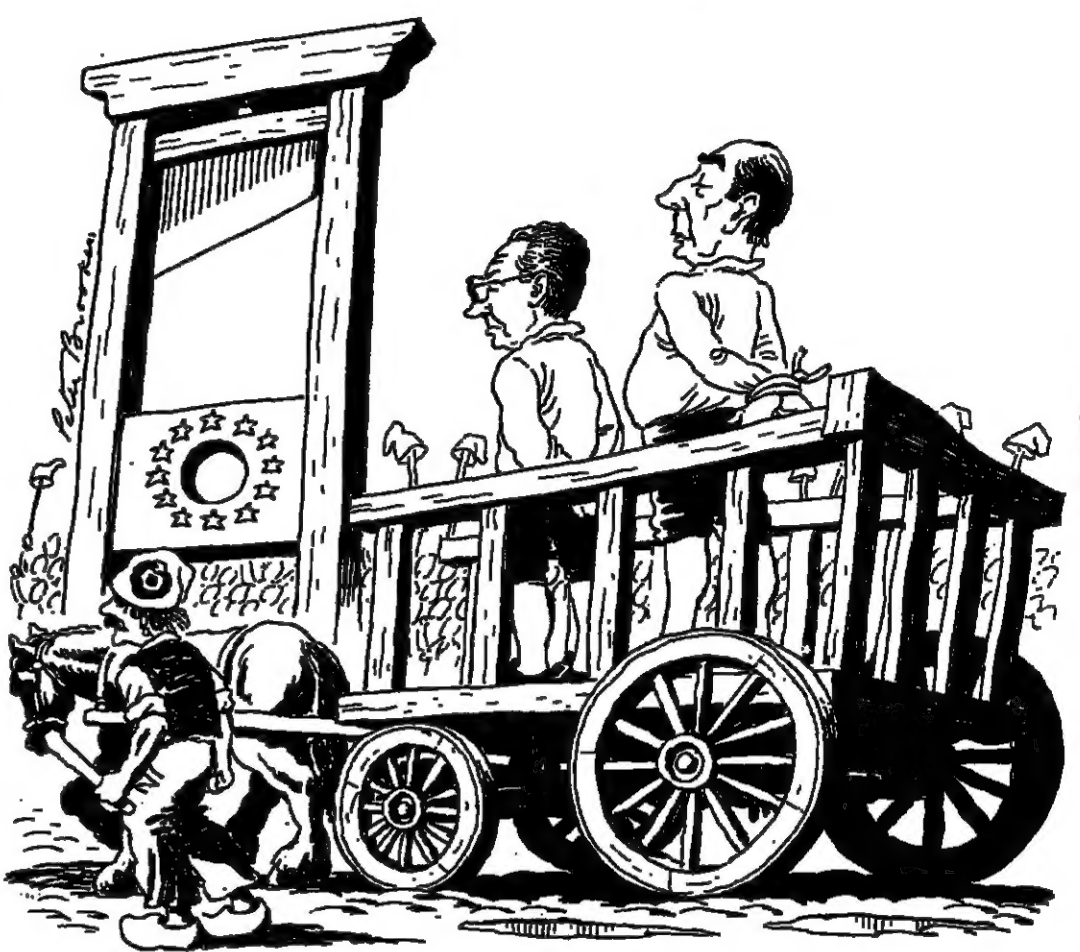
The immediate aftermath would be financial. Currency markets would force a realignment of the currencies in the European exchange-rate mechanism, easing the strains of the past few weeks. Since the loss of the treaty would postpone any merging of European currencies into the indefinite future, the system might become too unstable to hold together.

Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission for the last seven years, would then resign at the end of the year. His warning at the weekend that he will not con-

tinue beyond December if his compatriots vote against the treaty is not bombast or blackmail, but a statement of intent. M. Delors believes that the treaty itself was bad enough: a jumble of flabby compromises which do not go nearly far enough towards creating a strong political centre for federal union. To see even this half-baked text rejected in his own country would reduce his high hopes to rubble. The debris would also bury any thoughts he might have entertained of running for French president.

Would M. Delors be succeeded by Spanish prime minister Felipe Gonzalez, or by his Dutch counterpart Ruud Lubbers? These, at least, are the men who were last seen jockeying for a position which then seemed to be worth occupying. Would they want it now? The present Commission happens to be holding its first discussion of a future without Maastricht and Delors today, and the commissioners are painting a grim and fearful picture. Sir Leon Brittan talks of political and economic instability. Europe will slip its only anchor, the Community, warns his colleague Karel van Miert, who adds menacingly: "Look what happened in Yugoslavia." This scare tactic is a variant of the threat which pro-treaty French politicians are waving at their rebellious voters. Destroy the treaty, says prime minister Pierre Berégovoy, and Europe will return to the dangerous vacuum of 1914. Europe without Maastricht is made to resemble the anarchic wasteland of *Aliens*.

It won't wash. The best counter-argument to this epidemic of lurid pessimism was put by a senior British minister only a few weeks before the Maastricht summit. If there's no deal, he said, "all the blaming... would go on for five days; then the Community would go on with its work — in a slightly bedraggled state". This insouciance was partly a negotiating bluff, but the prediction is accurate enough. The minister concerned is now a stout defender of Maastricht, and has



been trying to persuade the Eurosceptics of the Tory party to help ratify the treaty.

But if Maastricht falls away, the Treaty of Rome and the Single European Act still stand. The single market is still due to open for business with bonfires and ballyhoo in January. Austria, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland are waiting politely at the EC's front door, and a merged single market of the Community and the Alpine and Scandinavian states of the European Free Trade Association, totaling 380 million consumers, awaits ratification this autumn.

Integration will continue and may even accelerate: the Community will evolve. The needs of business will demolish barriers and information technology will weave new webs of cooperation. Urgent transnational problems

such as Balkan peace-making, toxic waste and waves of refugees will need bold international solutions. Answers to those problems can be found without the burdensome requirement that they end in a European federation. The intellectual monopoly of federalist thinkers would be ended by a No vote, and such a liberation is more likely to lead to fresh thinking than introspective immobility. A pained Mr van Miert said that you can't be for Europe and against Maastricht, but plenty of Danish and French voters plainly think you can.

"The Community's motor would be broken," said one of M. Delors' aides yesterday, "and there will be no urgency or discipline to make decisions." But similarly gloomy predictions were made when the French national assembly voted down the European Defence Com-

munity in 1954. Only two years later, the EC's six original states laid the foundations for a less ambitious but more effective common market. After a No vote, politicians in France and Germany might try to start again with a small community excluding difficult late-comers and new applicants. But neither country shows signs of wanting to shut out the struggling states of Eastern Europe.

A more plausible scenario has been outlined by former French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who campaigns for the treaty. Look what would happen, he urged television viewers last week, if "Europe is abandoned by France". The Community will head for what the British want: few central institutions and a priority for free trade. For Mr Major, that may not sound too disagreeable.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

I should not be writing this at all. I should be writing a battle anthem. I should be sitting here in my grey breeches and riding boots and my grey jacket with the yellow frogging and epaulettes and my plumed hat, and quickly dashing off something for my men to march behind. Downstairs, my crinolined wife would be snuffing decorously into a lace handkerchief, while the daily (since I unfortunately lack a trusty black manservant) would be honing my sabre, oiling my Navy colt, and getting my horse out of the garage.

And don't say I'm too old. When Robert E. Lee was given command of the Confederate forces, he was exactly my age. For rebel generals, 54 is the prime.

Mind you, I say dashing off, but it would not be an easy anthem to write. Since it was Winston Churchill who maintained that there was no more stirring a battle march than Dixie, I should be happy enough with the tune, but chiselling new lyrics to fit it is an altogether trickier matter: if you would care to pause at this point and attempt to sing "Look away, look away, look away, South Cricklewood" you will immediately hear the snag. It is that intrusive third syllable. Were I putative commander of the forces of all Cricklewood, of course, it would be a doddle: but it is the word South that is the problem.

In, I fear, every sense. For I have just returned from France to find that we are two Cricklewoods, now, amid the pile of

post jamming the front door was a letter from the Borough of Barnet addressed to me in some where called South Cricklewood, and when I instantly rang to enquire about this hitherto undesignated territory, I was told that, henceforth, for administrative purposes, Cricklewood would be divided into North and South, the border being Cricklewood Lane.

Border? I cried. border? I know that I need not elaborate my horror. I have wearied you often enough over the past few years with my bid to register Cricklewood upon the national consciousness, to give to airy nothing a local habitation and a name, and now here was Barnet stomping in, with ink blots and rotten parchment bonds, to cleave that nascent identity in two.

But then I thought, hang on: might those dear words "for administrative purposes" be no more than nervous bureaucratese to deflect me from a far gristlier truth? Might something quite horrible have happened during my absent month? Might the blame lie not with Barnet at all, but with Gorbachev? For since we know, now, that the noise we heard in November 1989 was not that of a wall being dismantled but of a wall being cannibalised in order that a hundred other walls could be erected in a hundred other places, could it be that dear old Cricklewood had, while I was briefly gone, supped upon that ghastly cocktail of fissiparousness and exclusion

which has left all Europe reeling and bawling?

I ran up here to the loft, and looked out. All seemed quiet enough. No obvious Balkanisation going on. No shots, no shrines, no peckmarked masonry, and from what I could see of the soi-disant border half a mile away, the buses seemed to be trundling back and forth along it without any undue interference from mines. But do you know, even as I looked, it was suddenly borne in upon me that there were indeed two distinct Cricklewoods, bisected by the Lane: the noisy bustling industrial North of dark satanic home improvement centres and mighty used car lots, and the indolent bucolic South of tweezeed lawns and Hoovered patios, where, though space forbids collision and point-to-point, the tinkling laughter of lovely women and the sage opinions of authoritative men nevertheless punctuate the scented gloaming as the Chardonnay goes down and the flakes of hail-eaten vol-au-vent piourette in the tastefully foodlit breeze; and since such cultural disparities have ever been a precursor of bitter clash, could Barnet be trying to tell me our time is nigh?

I feel a chill wind rattling the casement. Any day now, the Northern forces may pour across the new border under some such pretext as, say, freeing our au pairs, and life as we know it, gracious, gentle, elegant, will disappear forever.

Though not, if I can just sort this anthem out, without a fight.

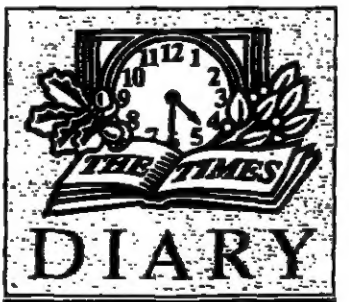
Persistent tone of irritation

HAVING described them as one of the "greatest scourges of modern life", Norman Lamont has spent his summer discovering at first hand just how intrusive the mobile telephone can be. Now safely back behind his desk in the Treasury, Lamont will be thankful that he once again has a bank of aides to field his telephone calls. For packed at the very top of the family suitcases for the summer holiday were no fewer than three mobile telephones, ensuring that the Lamont holiday retreats in France and Tuscany were never more than a dialling tone away from the Bank of England and the Bundesbank.

There was no escape, even when the chancellor left the Tuscan home of Lord Wyatt, which he and his family used as the base for most of their break, to go sailing in the Mediterranean. "The chancellor could hardly believe it when he got on board. There was a special satellite yacht-phone, and the Bank of England was on the line within minutes," says one of his aides.

The first of his battery of mobile phones was used to call the Treasury from France at the start of the holiday. Lamont's private office then used a satellite link to route his calls through to finance ministers around Europe, and to the all-important Bundesbank.

The second phone was for use in Italy, and the third was a reserve. "There was no getting away from it," said the Treasury official. "The chancellor was taking a close interest in the markets and needed to be in regular contact with the Bank of England and the Bundesbank. At one stage I think all four telephones on the yacht were ringing at the same time."



It was a new experience for Lamont who introduced a special tax on yuppie phones last year and has resolutely refused Treasury advice to have a mobile at home. "After his holiday I think he will be even less keen," adds the official. Do not be surprised to see a hike in the tax in the next budget.

● The latest to join the anthology bandwagon is Denis Healey whose book *My Secret Planet* is due out later this month. Healey describes the work as "an attempt to describe some of the furniture of my mind," and weighs in at 100, full of Germanic philosophers and the like. Yet between the chunks of Kant and Wittgenstein comes a delightful piece of verse which Healey says influenced him throughout his days at Oxford. The first couplet conveys the flavour: Her name was Lil and she was a Cutie, She lived in a house of ill-repute. What a shame Healey never quite made it to Labour leader.

Own goal

MORE EXCITED than most about the early success of Blackburn Rovers in soccer's new Premier League is Sir Rodney Boyson. The former education minister and one-time headmaster even blames his lifelong support of the team for his failing his 11-plus. Boyson,

now 67, says that he was sitting the exam on a day when Rovers were playing at home — and realised that if he stayed to finish his paper he would be in danger of missing the game. He slipped out early, and his father was furious when he duly failed the exam.

"He knocked me from one end of the room to the other. It was the first and only time he hit me, so I knew it was important to settle down to intellectual activity." Suitably chastened, Boyson later passed an exam for a fee-paying place at the local grammar school, and his tough views about the importance of proper exams were formed. But he still follows the



team whenever he can. "I can hardly believe they went top at the weekend," he says. "I am delighted."

European conflict

PRESIDENT MITTERRAND may live to regret agreeing to go on French television tomorrow to debate the virtues of the Maastricht treaty. With paranoia and resentment growing daily in France over Germany's economic dominance, Mitterrand could hardly have

picked a worse date for his clash with Philippe Seguin, the leader of the Non campaign.

Readers of *The Times*, both in Britain and France, will need little reminding that tomorrow is the 53rd anniversary of a memorable event in European history. The Non campaign is already understood to have lined up veterans of *la résistance* to take the streets tomorrow in a symbolic protest. Small wonder that John Major decided to take no part in the debate.

L-driver crashes

THE new Formula One world champion, Nigel Mansell, began his career by duping his way onto a track by lying about his age. "It is only now that I have rumoured Nigel's secret," says Bert Hesketh, a former RAC official who was in charge of a Go-Kart world championship race at Heysham in 1968.

"He was just 15 at the time, much too young to have taken part in the race in the first place. We thought he was 17," says Hesketh. "Had I known his real age, I would have had to bar him. And if I had done that, would we have the world champion we have today?"

The race very nearly deprived Britain of its future champion anyway. The young Mansell crashed through a fence and ended up in hospital, where a priest even read the last rites. "He almost killed himself. It just shows how mad keen he was to race," says Hesketh.

● The latest accessory to grace Sloane Ranger dinner parties is a pirate copy of the so-called *Diana* tape. Enterprising Sloanes have apparently copied the tape from the telephone line laid on by a certain tabloid newspaper, not too far from this office, which is charging eavesdroppers £11 for the unexpurgated version.



THE POLICE INSPECTED

Reform of the police is becoming urgent. As controller of the Audit Commission, Howard Davies was responsible for a series of reports that were critical of the muddle and inefficiency in provincial police forces. Though he is now director general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday he displayed once more his talent for asking sharp questions about policing.

The government will not be able to answer them without public debate. The modern theory of police work rests on there being informed public consent to police objectives. Mr Davies' singular achievement is to initiate that debate and point it in the direction it must go. The Home Office enquiry into police working practices which Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, announced in May will take stock of recent changes, but it is not within its remit to answer the more fundamental policy questions. Those are for government.

The police are one of five areas of the public sector Mr Davies examined. In the light of his Audit Commission experiences, in a paper written for the Social Market Foundation and published yesterday. The others were social services, the National Health Service, refuse collection and schools. He suggests ten criteria for running public-sector services including the police, such as insisting on clearly defined outputs, independent inspection and audit, a clean split between provider and purchaser, a strong lay element in management, comparative data on performance and a voice for consumers.

Of the five services he compares, the National Health Service reforms come closest to meeting his conditions, while the police are furthest from meeting them. The police "show all the characteristics of a badly designed system, one ripe for fundamental reform", Mr Davies remarks. "Of all public services, the police were the least affected by the Thatcher revolution."

This is partly because governments and Oppositions have played politics with the police, out-bidding each other on police manpower as a mark of political machismo

without reference to efficiency or performance. But the evasions of politicians were understandable. The political doctrines behind the policing of a Western plural democracy are uncertain and still evolving, with new principles and approaches gradually taking over from the old, and a clash of police cultures in every force at almost every level. To policemen of the old school, still well represented in the notorious canteen culture, the police were a "force". Mr Davies points out how useful this traditional view was when it came to controlling the 1984 miners' strike. Policemen were the strong arm of the state, whose job was to impose an ideal of law and order at the point of a truncheon. The individual's role was to "move along now" when told to do so, not to take part in a discussion about policing objectives.

Policing is now regarded as a "service", offering the community something it wants. It even becomes possible to talk, as Mr Howard urges, of the police having "customers" and of those customers making choices. Among the most important of these will be to decide how much policing they are willing to pay for, specifying what quality of service they would regard as value for money. If, as earlier Audit Commission work suggested, rapid response to 999 calls was a high public priority, then that should be a police priority too. Unlike fire and ambulance emergency calls, however, there are no standard reaction times set for the police nor are national statistics available. Police answering emergency calls often do not bother to report back.

Without such transparency, the public cannot know whether police performance is satisfactory. It may be good public relations for the police to present themselves as answerable to demands of the community, but behind a cloak of public ignorance they can carry on as before. The Home Office should insist on better public monitoring of police performance. Mr Clarke should tell Mr Davies's successor, Peter Brokenshire, that the government welcomes the commission's efforts in policing the police.

GEORGIAN HYDRA

Small wonder that Georgians are among the world's foremost translators and interpreters of Shakespeare. Proud, cultured, chivalrous, their lives are dominated by ancient feuds, wine, religion and honour: the stuff of Shakespearean tragedy. The world is obsessed with Yugoslavia, bored by Lebanon and, perhaps, not yet aware of the full horror of civil war in Georgia.

In the fall of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the brilliant and paranoid former president — himself a translator of Shakespeare — there are elements of Macbeth and Richard III. In Eduard Shevardnadze, the white-haired new chairman of the state council, there is something of Lear without the madness as he rails against the treachery around him while his kingdom crumbles.

This beautiful country is now racked with fighting. In Abkhazia, in the northwest, Georgian troops are fighting a three-way battle against separatists from this small, formerly autonomous Muslim region on the Black Sea coast. The latter have declared full independence and are now being helped by hundreds of armed Caucasian volunteers: Chechens, Adygai, Kabardians, men from the turbulent regions in southern Russia who, acknowledging the suzerainty of none, have streamed south with their Kalashnikovs. Government troops are also battling against the "Zviadists", the fanatical followers of the exiled former president, whose uncompromising nationalism first stirred these minority revolts.

In South Ossetia, an enclave on the border of Russia, an uneasy ceasefire holds. A revolt against the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi, that began in 1990 degenerated into terrorism, hostage-taking and the occasional massacre of civilians. It threatened to drag in Moscow. Russian nationalists demanded help for a region that had always served Russia's interests and provided more than its share of army volunteers. Appeals went out for arms and aid from kinsmen in north Ossetians, which is part of the existing Russia.

Troops attempted to quell the revolt, and

until Mr Shevardnadze returned from Moscow, terrorism in South Ossetia looked set to become endemic. But the new Georgian leader is a fox who knows his countrymen well from his 13 years as the party's first secretary. He used his old party connections, his friendship with President Yeltsin and his skill as a negotiator, to set up a Georgian-Russian conciliation force that since July has miraculously managed to keep the peace.

Now he is gambling that a show of force in Abkhazia, where the Abkhazians constitute only a fifth of the population, will crush a revolt that can only undermine efforts to pacify the inflamed body politic while rallying to the government cause the Zviadists. However, a "surgical operation" to occupy the local parliament has met resistance. Fighting has spread. Russian forces have been caught in the crossfire, militarily and politically. Mr Shevardnadze's relations with Moscow are under strain.

The Georgian leader is a master tactician. He knows how pride can be assuaged, face saved and the various warlords, on whose support he depends, be made to feel that they still have importance. Against the odds, he may yet negotiate peace.

His own position, though, is delicate: constitutionally he is a usurper, inheritor of a revolt which he encouraged from afar to overthrow a legally elected president. But most Georgians regard the technicalities as misleading. Mr Shevardnadze is the true democrat. Mr Gamsakhurdia the deposed tyrant.

Only Georgians can work out a new constitution for their multi-ethnic country. They need none of the meddling interference and arms dumping that blighted and still blights Lebanon. Luckily, the outside world is unwilling to interfere in a land better known in legend than reality. Jason, an ancient intruder into Georgia, had to kill all the heads of the Hydra before he could claim the Golden Fleece. Mr Shevardnadze has to battle alone before his country can find salvation.

A MERE MAN

New men may be flourishing in this kinder, gentler decade, but not, it seems, in the Home Office. A Swedish au pair fitting none of the usual stereotypes — neither blonde nor buxom, nor even female — has been refused leave to look after children in Britain. Johan Egelsstedt, who was threatened with deportation, may now stay in this country but not as an au pair.

The Home Office allows foreign au pairs to join a British family and earn pocket money of between £20 and £30 a week in return for helping in the house. For working parents they usefully fill a gap in the childcare market, between children coming back from school and parents returning from work. Or they offer a non-working mother a helping hand and occasional time to herself. Au pairs, in return, have a chance to learn English, live in a family home and earn just enough to entertain themselves in their spare time.

The Home Office, when it created the immigration loophole for au pairs, was concerned to prevent foreigners abusing it, for instance by arriving in Britain on an au pair's visa and then bringing a spouse or children over to join them. So it stipulated that au pairs should be aged between 17 and 27 inclusive with no spouse or dependants. It also insisted they be female.

When the law was framed in 1971, this specification may have been unexceptionable. Few parents imagined having their children looked after by a man and few men

would have thought of taking such a job. Fewer mothers went out to work, and those who did arranged for other women to replace them at home.

Times have changed. These days fathers are more active as parents, and in families in which the mother also works, many of them share childcare more or less equally. This is normally seen not as a duty but as an act of choice. Many regret having seen too little of their own fathers when they were young and want to redress the balance with their children. Being an active father is nowadays no longer seen as unusual or unmanly. This must be good for stable family life.

It is therefore no longer unthinkable for men to look after children, even quite small ones not their own. Some parents like the idea — Mr Egelsstedt's putative employers thought he would be a good role model for their boys — and some men now welcome the work. The sexual template the Home Office drew up 20 years ago no longer fits.

If Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, were to redefine the au pair to include men, would Britain be invaded by "bogus" male au pairs who wanted to stay illegally? There is no evidence that men are more prone to do this than women. America, for instance, is still wary of letting in single women, fearing they will marry American men in order to stay. Mr Clarke has agreed to review the ruling. He should keep the strictures on age and dependants. But he should scrap the archaic gender restriction.

Free speech and control of media

From Mr John Rubinstein

Sir, Whilst Alastair Brett and Derek Currie may have been arguing for the protection of free speech ("No win, no fee: free speech loses", Law Times, August 25) their arguments, perversely, would ensure its denial. They take no account either of the expense of libel litigation or of the stranglehold on freedom of expression exercised by the media.

For the vast majority of individuals, freedom of speech is subject to censorship by newspaper editors who decide what views shall and shall not be aired in their pages. They also decide what is "reasonable" or "proper" in publishing public replies to or retractions of patent mistakes, often in the form of statements placed in parts of the newspaper which have less prominence than the article which provoked complaint and printed in comparatively insignificant type.

The current debate about parliamentary intervention on invasion of privacy reflects these grave weaknesses. No newspaper editor has force-fitted the United Kingdom which, unlike other European countries who are signatories to the (European) Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, has failed to give legislative effect to Article 8 (1) of that convention. The UK has persistently and consistently refused to acknowledge that a person should have, as a fundamental freedom, "the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence".

Newspapers are not the only culprits, as the sad spectacle last June of Mrs Kevin Maxwell being ridiculed in front of the TV cameras by police officers, with the serried ranks of the media camped outside her home in the early hours of the morning in attendance, bears testimony.

The Press Complaints Commission remains a toothless and ineffectual body. It is controlled by the press, which has a majority sitting on its decision-making panel, and its role can be muted simply by a newspaper's threat not to enforce or respect any of its findings.

The Lord Chancellor must be persuaded that the power to make awards of damages should be taken away from the jury and given to the judge. The jury, meanwhile, should continue to decide whether allegations are libellous, since the basis of the cause of action of all libel is whether or not the complainant has been exposed to public odium, scandal and contempt.

The introduction of a defence of "in the public interest", as proposed by Messrs Brett and Currie, would make libel trials even more expensive to litigate than they already are. It would also further load the dice against the vast majority of those who have been unjustifiably wronged by media defendants.

Were the power to set the level of damages given to a judge, a bona fide mistake made by a newspaper in the course of reporting a matter in the public interest could be taken into account by him.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RUBINSTEIN,
2 Raymond Buildings,
Grays Inn, WCI.

Food duds

From Mrs Melissa G. Hawes

Sir, If watching Captain Cabbage and the Food Dudes on video dramatically changes the eating patterns of some children ("Views of the greens", Life & Times, August 25), what of those who insist that violence and brutality on television and videos have no effect on children's behaviour?

While being in no way an exponent of blanket censorship — my children and I enjoy Tom and Jerry cartoons as much as anyone — I wonder, can we really have it both ways?

Yours sincerely,
MELISSA G. HAWES,
21 Allard Crescent,
Bushey Heath,
Watford, Hertfordshire.

Rights of way

From Mr Mike Walker

Sir, In your report, "Rambblers accuse local authorities of negligence" (August 19) I was alarmed to see Buckinghamshire County Council listed as one of 19 failing to take action against offenders under the Rights of Way Act 1990. This council receives many reports of paths obstructed contrary to the act. All are addressed and the bulk are resolved in correspondence and discussion with the farmers concerned.

In *Rights of Way — A Guide to Law and Practice*, generally regarded as the bible on these matters, Buckinghamshire is cited more than any other county council when listing authorities that have prosecuted offenders.

It has prosecuted for 17 offences under the act in the past 12 months and will continue to do so where necessary.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE WALKER,
(Senior Rights of Way Officer,
Buckinghamshire County Council),
19 Diane Close,
Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire,
August 20.

Home purchase compared with rent

From Mrs Judith Lyons

Sir, The short-term financial advantage of renting a home in comparison to buying one (report, August 27) is most apt in the present economic climate, but there are other factors.

Costs additional to the hypothetical house price of £55,000 used by the Council of Mortgage Lenders are: stamp duty, £500; mortgage survey fee, £150 plus VAT; solicitors' fees, approximately £750 plus VAT; and Land Registry fees — all of which do not apply to a rental, thus making the case for renting even stronger.

But there is a long-term benefit to house purchase: one could take a 20-year mortgage and own the house outright at the end of it without any more to pay. At that stage rents would have risen at least in line with inflation, while the cost of the mortgage payments would have shrunk in real terms, as a proportion of income, for example.

There are very real fears attached to renting: over a similar 20-year period the rent could rise in line with inflation. Security of tenure is no longer certain because of the recent change in the law giving landlords greater rights of repossession. In my view buying is best in the long run.

Yours sincerely,
JUDITH LYONS,
Nathan, Stiman (solicitors),
Osprey House,
78 Wigmore Street, W1,
August 27.

From Miss Julie Nurse

Sir, The report by the Council of Mortgage Lenders bases its conclusion that renting may now be cheaper than buying in the short term on the assumption that landlords will be content to accept a gross return of 6 per cent on a house valued hypothetically at £55,000 and if house prices are falling by 2 per cent a year. This situation could not last because the net return to the landlord after overheads and running costs would then be 2-3

Faith in schooling

From Mr R. W. Ellis

Sir, Schools which expect good standards — of behaviour as well as of academic achievement — will get them. Such traditions spring from the society in which children are brought up, and from the concern of parents, as well as from the leadership of the teachers themselves (the Chief Rabbi's article, "Faith in schooling", August 25).

But for parents, when selecting schools, to seek to wrap the cloak of religious custom round their children is to risk the creation of a Britain with ever more dangerously deep divisions of religion and culture. With the example of Ulster so close, dare we encourage further religious segregation in our schools? There are other — and less dangerous — ways of creating high expectations.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER ELLIS,
18 North Avenue, Ealing, W13.

Cost of financial advice

From Mr John Holt

Sir, Your leader, "Unfair assurance sales (August 26), is itself unfair. You are quite right in stating that commission rates for financial advisers rose substantially when the maximum commission agreement was abolished in 1988 but you failed to add that the abolition was supported by the Office of Fair Trading against the advice of a substantial number of us inside the business. We thought that the old agreement, which effectively meant that most insurance companies paid the same commission to advisers, was in the best interests of the consumer and therefore of ourselves. The OFT thought otherwise and supported the abolition, to the considerable detriment of the consumer.

Your leader and for some years your Weekend Money writers have indicated that the public would have a

better chance of judging the quality of the investment if commission were disclosed clearly. Saving £100 per month for one's retirement into a national savings or building society account naturally pays zero commission, whereas saving through a personal pension plan would pay commission. Does zero commission rate make the former a better deal? Some members of the public might be led to believe that this was true and act accordingly — to their financial loss.

Finally, in your news report of the same day the headline refers to "with-profit" bonds and your surrender-value table refers to bonds, but you have certainly not quoted bond surrender values. You have mistakenly quoted endowment values instead.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOLT,
1 Greyfriars Road,
Reading, Berkshire.

Business letters, page 19

Sir, I would challenge the figure in the table you published on comparative housing costs showing that owner-occupiers spend as little as 1.5 per cent of the purchase price on the insurance and maintenance of their homes.

They may say they do, but experience shows that a vast amount of personal resource is spent at DIY and other retailers providing home-care and home-improvement products. Buyers of these products are often surprised at the impact of these costs on their personal budgets, if asked to calculate them honestly.

The tenant renting through a reputable agency offering properties in good condition in every price range is getting an excellent deal. A good standard of condition and on-going maintenance is included in the price of the rental.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. CRIDLAND
(Principal),
Runyards, Chervell House,
1 London Place, Oxford,
August 27.

From Dr Stanley Solomons

Sir, The Chief Rabbi, writing with more passion of feeling than clarity of thought, suggests it is largely the high moral and spiritual tone in two Jewish schools that has resulted in their attaining better A-level results than any other state schools in the country.

A bit of a facer, this, when one comes to think of all those Church of England, Roman Catholic, chapel and Quaker schools whose inferior results, no doubt, must be due to the lower degree or even order of their morality and spirituality.

Unless, of course it has more to do with that determination that they and their children will get on in life, for which Jews are so well known and which for so long they have needed to adopt, or go under. As the Chief Rabbi writes: "Jews predicated their survival on schools and their spirituality on education, and it has worked."

Yours sincerely,
S. SOLOMONS,
165 West Heath Road, NW3.

Down's screening

From Mrs L. A. Jones

Sir, I have recently had the standard AFP (alpha-fetoprotein) blood test, used to test for spina bifida and as an indicator of other possible foetal abnormalities, including Down's syndrome. Like Mr Davies (August 31) I am repelled by the idea of a "seek out and destroy" procedure. I agreed to the current tests, however, and would agree to the new Down's syndrome test, in order to know as much as possible about my unborn child.

Should the tests indicate abnormalities I would wish to be informed so that I could prepare for its care and development, to enable my child to have a happy and fulfilled life. If the tests were to reveal abnormalities undoubtedly condemning it to a nasty and miserable existence I would want to consider whether termination might be the more responsible decision to take on behalf of an already loved child.

Only the parents of an unborn child can make, and have the right to make, such a decision. Their ability to do so depends upon their receiving expert information and support from both medical and ethical advisers and is made possible by the increasing sophistication and accuracy of the ante-natal tests available.

Yours faithfully,
L. JONES,
44a Smugglers Way,
Rhu, Dunbartonshire.

Politically correct Bard

From Mr Cyril Fish

Sir, I note the euphemisms inserted into the text of *Much Ado about Nothing* by the Oxford Stage Company (Daily, August 21): "If I do not love her, I am a Jew" (which I am) is to become "If I do not love her, I am a fish", which I certainly am. I protest.

Yours sincerely,
CYRIL FISH,
2 Argyle Road,
Woodside Park, N12,
August 21

Hurd's journey to South Africa

From the Foreign Secretary

Sir, Your leading article today, entitled "Pointless mission", is misguided. Britain and Europe have a strong interest in the transition to a stable and democratic South Africa. The visit of the three EC foreign ministers has been planned for some time. I decided to go ahead after receiving a telephone call from the South African foreign minister urging us to do so, and after confirming that the visit was welcome to the ANC and others.

Mr Botha argued during this call that if we did not go ahead with the projected visit it would be felt that Britain and Europe had forgotten South Africa in the midst of our other concerns.

We can bring ourselves up to date personally on the prospects and the difficulties. Whether in addition we can be of some help we do not yet know, I hope so, but against this background it must be right to go.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HURD,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
London SW1,
September 1.

Balkan boundaries

From Mr Lewis Stretch

Sir, The outcome of the London conference on the former Yugoslavia, which endorsed agreements on the reform of refugees to their former homes (report, August 28) gives a glimmer of hope for the future of that troubled area.

British politicians have in the past shown an unrealistic and irrational dedication to internal boundaries barely tolerable under previous, now rejected, systems of government. That makes one wonder whether we are indeed the right people to help the Balkan peoples achieve a humane and permanent resolution of their ancient animosities.

There seems a grave danger that bureaucratic intransigence, aggravated by sectarian pressures, may leave similar problems festering to those that still plague India and Pakistan, Palestine and Cyprus after our withdrawal of the imperial umbrella that enabled diverse populations to live in peace with one another.

Any democratic entity, particularly those rejecting federal solutions for unitary states, demands a reasonable degree of consensus among its members. Boundaries of new states must be negotiated to achieve this, particularly internal arrangements imposed by a communist dictator like Tito.

As under the federal system there were many more Serbs living outside Serbia than non-Serbs living within it, any settlement must apparently increase the territory labelled Serbia. Earlier catch-phrases like "Greater Serbia", or "ethnic cleansing" (even though its end has seemingly been promised), still leave me apprehensive, however.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS STRETCH,
3 Laroc Close,
Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire,
August 28.

OBITUARIES

LESLIE FOX

Leslie Fox, formerly professor of numerical analysis and director of the computing laboratory at Oxford University, died on August 1 aged 73. He was born on September 30, 1918.

LESLIE Fox was one of the world leaders in the remarkable explosion in numerical analysis that took place during and after the second world war. His fundamental research continued throughout his career, and in later years he became an outstanding teacher and expositor. He was author, or co-author, of eight books and 86 papers on numerical analysis.

His interest in mathematics was aroused whilst he was a pupil at Wheelwright Grammar School in Dewsbury, Yorkshire. At Christ Church, Oxford, he was awarded a first-class degree in mathematics in 1939, followed by an MA and then a DPhil in 1942. His thesis was on relaxation methods, with Professor Sir Richard Southwell as supervisor. In 1956 he was awarded the DSc degree.

Fox held three permanent appointments in his career, each of considerable influence. He began in the Admiralty Computing Service (ACS) in 1943-45, followed by the mathematics division of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in 1945-56, and lastly Oxford University in 1957-83, where he was the first director of the newly-formed computing laboratory, and later (1963) professor of numerical

computers appeared. As this revolutionary change in numerical analysis took place Fox played a leading role in adapting existing algorithms and developing new ones, whilst constantly stressing the very real need to adhere to the basic principles of rigorous checking and accuracy.

At Oxford Fox fought a vigorous, and successful, battle to introduce numerical analysis into the mathematics curriculum, and in doing so set a precedent that other universities in the country soon followed. It is entirely fitting that he should have been the first professor of numerical analysis at Oxford.

During his tenure at the computing laboratory 70 students were awarded the DPhil and 43 the MSc (or equivalent). Fox himself supervised wholly, or in part, approximately one-third in each category. Many of these students now occupy senior positions in academia or industry around the world.

His interest in education spanned all levels, however, and it is noteworthy that he made the facilities of the computing laboratory available to local schoolchildren in 1966: some of the "graduates" from these classes later helped write one of the very first books on computing in school mathematics. During this period he also undertook several initiatives to acquaint British industrial leaders with the ever-increasing power of direct numerical methods for solving problems arising in engineering and science.

Fox became a fellow of Balliol College in 1963 (and subsequently emeritus fellow), and an honorary fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) in 1989. Other major honours included an IMA symposium at the Royal Society, London, on "The Contributions of L. Fox to Numerical Analysis" (1983), and an honorary doctorate from the Open University (1986).

Perhaps the honour that gave him most satisfaction was the Leslie Fox Prize set up by the IMA for young researchers in numerical analysis. The prize, which is international, has been awarded biennially since 1985. The list of winners is essentially a *Who's Who* of the next generation of world leaders in this now greatly-expanded subject.

analysis. He also held appointments as visiting professor at the universities of California (at Berkeley), Illinois, Lubiana and the Open University.

At the ACS he quickly made his mark by the brilliant application of numerical techniques, learned from the leader D. H. Sadler, to engineering problems of relaxation: this culminated in an eminently practical tool for the solution of partial differential equations. At NPL (and later Oxford) he made fundamental advances in the solution of ordinary differential equations, particularly two-point boundary-value problems, as well as in linear algebra, approximation theory and integral equations. Much of this research was performed in the days before automatic com-

Yvon Briant

YVON Briant, French politician and Euro-MP, was killed recently with his wife and son in an air crash in Corsica. He was 38.

National Centre of Independent Politicians (CNI) in 1985 and was elected to parliament in 1986. At the time of his death he was president of the CNI and a European Democrat member of the European parliament.

Tate adds new portrait to its Stuart display

By JOHN SHAW

THE Tate Gallery has acquired a portrait by William Dobson (1611-1646) of his second wife which will go on show to the public in a display of Elizabethan and Stuart painting on Saturday.

It was bought in a private treaty sale through Christie's, but the identity of its previous owner, where the portrait came from and the purchase price have not been disclosed. Little is known about the short life and career of the artist who was described by John Aubrey, the diarist, "as the most excellent painter that England hath yet bred." Dobson usually painted the personalities of the English Civil War.

The study of his second wife, Judith, is thought to have been painted by the end of the 1630s. Christie's describe it as strikingly informal in presentation "and the sitters' engaging glance gives the portrait an emotional sensitivity unusual in the artist's oeuvre."

Dobson moved in a wealthy and influential circle and was the only British painter of any talent and stature to have experienced and studied the magnificent art collection formed by Charles I which was disbursed during the Civil War.

He followed the court to

REAR-ADM SIR KENNETH BUCKLEY

Rear-Admiral Sir Kenneth Buckley, KBE, a former director of naval engineering, died on August 28 aged 88. He was born on May 24, 1904.



KENNETH Buckley was lucky to escape with his life when HMS *Repulse* was sunk by Japanese aircraft off the Malayan coast on December 10, 1941. A lieutenant-commander aged 37, he was serving as torpedo officer in the 25-year-old battle cruiser when, together with the new battleship *Prince of Wales*, it was attacked by up to 80 twin-engined bombers from the Japanese 11th air fleet based at Saigon.

The two big ships and their four escorting destroyers had been trying to intercept a number of Japanese troop transports, in the hope of forestalling further landings in Malaya, when they were themselves caught 70 miles out at sea without air cover.

As the stricken *Repulse* went down Buckley, who was struggling in the oily water, was sucked back into the hull where he was trapped inside a seaplane banger on the upper deck. He would certainly have perished, had not the hangar roof suddenly collapsed, allowing him to swim for his life towards one of the screening destroyers, HMS *Electra*. Clad only in a pyjama jacket and grey flannel trousers, he took charge of a large group of ratings who had survived and was subsequently mentioned in dispatches for the role he played in the hours following the disaster.

It was almost a case of jumping from the fire into the frying pan. Back in Singapore, the survivors faced an almost equally terrifying threat as Japanese forces attacked the supposedly impregnable British base. A bullet actually shattered Buckley's car windscreen as the enemy advanced towards the mainland causeway. But once more he was lucky to get away, evacuated in the destroyer

HMS *Scout* which was one of the last warships to leave port.

The central part of his career still lay ahead of him. Promoted to commander on reaching this country, he was made executive officer of the wartime torpedo school HMS *Marlborough* at Eastbourne from 1943 until 12 months after the war was over. He was then transferred to the navy's newly created electrical branch and given the responsibility for the large building programme at HMS *Collingwood*, the branch's headquarters at Fareham. After serving as the first executive officer at *Collingwood* he was promoted captain and made fleet electrical officer with the Home Fleet, based first in the carrier *Implacable* and then the battleship *Vanguard*.

In 1950 he was given command of the electrical

school, HMS *Ariel*, near Warrington, and in 1952 organised its move to a new home at Worthy Down outside Winchester. In 1953 he was posted briefly to the Admiralty as deputy director (personnel) of the electrical branch, then in the next year was placed in command of HMS *Collingwood*. He was ADC to the Queen, 1956-58.

He was promoted rear-admiral in 1958 and in the following year became director of engineering and electrical training, as well as senior naval electrical officer at a time of great expansion in military electronics. He was knighted in 1961 when he retired.

Kenneth Buckley was born in South India where his father was a colonial administrator. A forebear had been among the first to win a Victoria Cross in the Crimean

War. Buckley became a naval cadet at Osborne, then at Dartmouth, and first went to sea in the Atlantic fleet as a midshipman in HMS *Valiant* and the destroyer *Water Hen*. Between 1926 and 1929 he served on the China station in the cruiser *Dispatch* and in HMS *Keppel*.

Returning to Britain he was trained as a torpedo officer (torpedo specialists then doubled up as electrical officers) and was seconded to the New Zealand navy, serving on the commodore's staff in the cruiser *Dunedin* and in command of *Duchess II*, a merchantman requisitioned for mine-sweeper training.

Made up to lieutenant-commander in 1935, he joined the teaching staff at HMS *Vernon*, the navy's torpedo and diving school, then was appointed to supervise the building in Belfast of the cruiser *Penelope* — later nicknamed the "Pepperpot" after being holed so many times on convoy duties in the second world war. From there he joined the cruiser *Arcturion* on the staff of the admiral commanding the 3rd cruiser squadron and was on board when *Arcturion* was involved in the interception of the German prison ship *Altmark* early in the war.

From *Arcturion* he transferred to the cruiser *Galatea*, patrolling in the Channel, and took part in the evacuation of troops from Dieppe following the retreat of the British Expeditionary Force in France. He joined *Repulse* in 1941.

After leaving the navy Buckley founded his own electrical repair business at Southampton, and became deeply involved in the Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA), serving as president of his local branch for many years. An intensely private man, many of his acts of kindness have come to light only by accident. One old lady, a beneficiary of SSAFA, had her firewood chopped every week by the rear-admiral.

Kenneth Buckley is survived by his wife Bette and by their one son and two daughters.

APPRECIATIONS

Sir Joseph Weld

YOUR obituary (August 25) of Sir Joseph Weld paid tribute to his many charitable and philanthropic interests. There is an act of extreme generosity which should also be recorded, namely his gift in 1959 of the Ince Blundell Hall antiquities to the Liverpool Museum.

Sir Joseph Weld had inherited the Ince Hall collections from his Weld-Blundell cousins. The collection of antique statues, busts, bas-reliefs, candelabra and inscriptions at Ince Blundell Hall (near Liverpool), one of the largest and most important in England, had been formed in the late 18th century by Henry Blundell, who constructed a special pantheon-like sculpture gallery to house it; this rotunda remains today at Ince Blundell Hall.

Henry Blundell had always made his collection accessible to the Liverpool community, and Sir Joseph Weld's gener-



ous gesture continued this spirit. In addition to the some three hundred antiquities which went to the Liverpool Museum, a group of modern 18th century marble sculptures also went to the Walker Art Gallery and today forms an important part of the new sculpture gallery which has recently been created there.

Dr Gerard Vaughan

Lord Cheshire

MUCH to the benefit of everyone else, Leonard Cheshire (obituary, August 3) was one of the very few non-parliamentarians invited to join the all-party committee set up at Westminster in 1970 to promote the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Bill.

With his already vast experience of provision for disabled people, it seemed odd that he said so little and was so diffident in discussion. But he was shrewd as well as shy. One word from him was worth the whole vocabulary of some others. Our task was to draft a collective essay on improving the well-being of disabled people and enhancing their status. He was one of its most distinguished contributors.

Five years ago, we went to Peking and Chungking together in my case to address a conference on new legislation

for disabled people, in Leonard's case to add China to the huge number of countries with Cheshire Homes.

The meeting at which his proposal was discussed with Chinese administrators reminded me of his role at Westminster 17 years before. Again he said very little, but his every word was compellingly persuasive. So cogent and obviously sincere was he, so apparent his humanity, that he scarcely needed to speak at all to carry his proposal.

We were frequently in touch for nearly a quarter of a century. His humour in private conversation, his fellowship and excellent goodness were a delight to all who knew him. He will be deeply mourned by friends and beneficiaries all across the world.

The Right Hon Alfred Morris, MP, for the Disabled

Alan Thomas

I FIRST met Alan Thomas (obituary, August 6) when he was 17 and I was about a year younger. I collected books at an early age and ventured into first editions with my first pay as a cub reporter on the local newspaper. At school, I had read Melville and Browning when asked 12s 6d for a

slightly battered American first edition of *Typee*.

"Ah!" said Alan, stroking (yes, stroking) the grey cloth spine with his gilt lettering. "But think how nice that would look on your bookshelf." His words were hypnotic. I parted with 12s 6d and remembered them.

Ronald Riggs

Ian Robertson

WE MUCH regret that in the obituary (August 31) of Ian Robertson, senior civil servant and patron of the arts, pictured right, the wrong photograph was used.

It showed Ian Robertson, who is currently managing director, Corporate & Institutional Banking Division, of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Our apologies to all concerned.



Sept 2 ON THIS DAY 1912

Henry Bell (1767-1830) is credited with being the first to invent the steamboat in Europe in 1812. Celebrations held one hundred years later in honour of his launching of the boat provided overwhelming evidence of Clydeside's prosperity in the early years of this century.

Today was proclaimed as a general holiday in the towns of the Clyde, and the workers went in immense numbers to Greenock or Helensburgh to witness the display of shipping off the Tail of the Bank. Those who remained behind flocked to the riverside to cheer the gaily decorated vessels which steamed without a suggestion of "spluttering" towards the mouth of the river. Everywhere there were street and harbour decorations, illuminations and fireworks, and patriotic displays of various kinds, not merely in Glasgow itself, but in Greenock, Forth, Glasgow, Renfrew, Rosneath, Helensburgh, Dunoon, Largs, Dumbarton and elsewhere.

For the visitor to Glasgow the excursion was an interesting revelation of the magnitude of the shipbuilding industry of the Clyde. From Glasgow to Dalry, in yards which are famous all the world over, there were to be seen upon the stocks powerful, spacious cargo vessels, an apparently endless array of coasting vessels, river steamers, yachts, tugs, barges, and other small craft, all in various stages of construction. For instance, in the yard of Messrs Harland and Wolff at Greenock were the Australian cruiser, Sydney, three torpedo-boat destroyers, and the Admiralty depot ship, Woolwich. There were more destroyers and three gunboats at Messrs Yarrow's yard at Scotstoun. Then, when Clydebank was reached one saw in Messrs John Brown and Company's yard the cruisers, Tiger, Australia, and Southampton, more torpedo-boat destroyers, and the new Cunarder, Aquitania, which when launched will be the largest vessel afloat, and in Messrs Beardmore's yard the battleships Benbow and Conqueror, the cruiser Dublin.

It is, of course, a truism to say that in creating the first passenger steamboat in Europe Bell

CYRIL SMITH

Cyril Stanley Smith, a British-born scientist who played a prominent role in the construction of the first atomic bomb, died of cancer at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on August 25 aged 88. He was born in Birmingham on October 4, 1903.

CYRIL Smith was only 21 years old when he went to the United States: a newly-fledged graduate from the University of Birmingham. Two years later, in 1926, he had gained his doctorate in science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and had made America his home.

His career took a sudden turn with the entry of the US into the second world war. Naturalised two years before, he was called upon to join the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos, where he directed the preparation of enriched uranium and plutonium for the atomic bomb, as well as other materials for nuclear experiments.

It may have been this expe-

rience that sent him off on a new track when he returned to the academic world in 1946, becoming founding director of the Institute for the Study of Metals at the University of Chicago. He turned from the employment of science as a means of mass destruction to a study of the relationship between human beings and their materials, advancing the use of metallurgy in the examination of archaeological artefacts.

Moving to MIT in 1960, he held dual professorships in the departments of metallurgy and the humanities. His aim, he said, was "to encourage the understanding of human history and human activity through the scientific investigation of the material record of the past".

Smith established MIT's laboratory for research in archaeological materials, which led to the founding of the Centre for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology by a consortium of universities and museums.

He leaves his widow, Alice, and a son and daughter.



Pipers pick their own tunes

By ANGUS NICOL

THERE were no set tunes this year for the Gold Medal and Senior Pipers' competition. Competitors were required to submit tunes of their own choice: eight for the Gold Medal and ten for the Senior. However, there was a set list for the Silver Medal. This contained six tunes, two of which, the Salute to Donald and Black Donald's March are well known. The other four are not often played, though the MacGregor's Salute and The Duke of Atholl's Salute have been heard once or twice over the last couple of years. The remaining two, Dasturim gu seinnim pìob (I am proud to play a pipe) and Hector MacLean's Warning have not appeared in the competition lists for some decades.

The Highland Society of London's Gold Medal was won by Colin Roy MacLellan, who did play a less often heard tune, The Blue Ribbon. Alan Minty took second prize, with the Lament for Mary MacLeod. Another MacCrimmon tune, the Lament for the Earl of Antrim won third prize for Chris Terry, Iain Hurst, competing for the first time, won fourth prize, playing MacLeod of Raasay's Salute.

The Senior Pipers' competition, presented by William Grant & Son, is open only to those who have already won the Gold Medal. This year it

was won, together with the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders' Cup, by Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies, OOH. He played Donald Mor MacCrimmon's famous Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay. The second prize went to Rodenick MacLeod with the Lament for the Viscount of Dundee. Sergeant Brian Donaldson, Scots Guards, played The Bells of Perth to win third prize. Murray Henderson came fourth, playing the tune with which he won the Silver Chanters this year, the Lament for the Earl of Antrim. Stuart Liddell, who won the MacGregor prize last year, won the Silver Medal at his first attempt, playing the Salute to Donald.

The MacGregor Memorial competition is for pipers who are 21 years of age or under on the day of the competition. Each has to submit four tunes of his own choice, and is asked to play two, being judged on both performances. This event has been notable for the increasingly high standard, year by year, of the performers, of which this year was the best so far. Seasoned pipers would have been pleased to have given performances such as were heard in this event. It was won by Allan MacColl, whose first tune was The Battle of the Pass of Crieff, and

second Clanranald's Salute. Neil Walker came second, playing Lady Margaret MacDonal's Salute and the nameless tune, Hiharin dro d ro. Third prize was won by Andrew Hayes, with the Salute to Donald and Corriennan's Salute.

The March, Strathspey and Reel competition, for the previous winners of the separate events for marches and for Strathspeys and reels, is now held in the evening of the first day of the Argyllshire Gathering, and provides a fitting concert to round off the day. A full hall heard Rodenick MacLeod take first place, with Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies second.

The remaining competition on the first day is the junior march, Strathspey and reel competition for the Duke of Argyll's Medal. This is open only to natives of Argyll, and was won by Allan MacColl.

Oak giants line the forest trail

CHARLIE Easterfield, the Scottish sculptor and wood carver, has spent the last five weeks on his biggest ever task, creating figures out of massive pieces of unseasoned oak wood in the Tummel Forest Park, north Perthshire (Kerry Gill writes).

One is a mountainous, 9ft man cradling a baby, while the second work is a 7ft high sculpture of a figure clambering out of a tree trunk. Ms Easterfield was chosen from among Scottish sculptors to become artist in residence at the forest park during the summer. With her successor, John Hunter, from Edinburgh, they are creating the first of a series of oak figures for a sculpture trail through the woodlands.

Her second work, more than 3ft in diameter, weighs one and a half tons and had to be hauled by heavy machinery to the site from a local farm. "I am working a ten-hour day to have them completed in time. I have never worked in such a large scale before. Because the wood is unseasoned it is at least easier to work with," she said yesterday. The scheme is being funded by Scottish Enterprise Tayside, and it is hoped that the project can be continued next year with Scottish Arts Council support.

Valuation cut threatens big rise in level of council tax

By Philip Werster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE government faced fresh pressure last night to devote increased resources to the council tax after it was disclosed that local authorities may be forced to levy bigger bills than had been expected.

The draft valuations of homes received by local authorities yesterday show that there will be many more homes in the lower council tax brackets than estimated 18 months ago, leaving councils with a big shortfall in expected revenue and facing the need to charge a higher tax to raise the same sum.

According to unofficial estimates the council tax base is worth 11 per cent less than the government thought when it unveiled the poll tax replacement last year. That would translate to a shortfall

of just under £1 billion, although the environment department emphasised last night that the original figures had been based on a clear underestimate in the number of properties in Britain. In many areas the fact that there are more properties than estimated will help to balance the lower than expected revenue.

According to the Local Government Information Unit the figures would mean that people living in a house in council tax band D bracket (previously expected to pay around £400) would have to pay £60 more unless the government took special action. Michael Howard, the environment secretary, is negotiating with the Treasury over local authority spending. In spite of the unprecedented severity of this year's spending round senior Tory MPs are already pressing for a generous transitional relief scheme so that there is no repetition of the sudden increases in bills that accompanied the introduction of the poll tax. The new figures will intensify that pressure.

There is concern at the decision to base tax levels on 1991 property values which means, because of the house price slump, that some people will be in brackets higher than that justified by the current value of their home.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, the former local government minister, who is leading a Tory campaign for more cash help for local authorities, said yesterday that it was essential that London and the South-east were not adversely affected by the new tax as the North of England was by the community charge. He said: "Otherwise we would be us since this area is already so hard-hit by the recession."

It was originally estimated that at Wakefield, Yorkshire, 28 per cent of properties would be in the lowest band A. According to the information unit the actual figure is nearer 60 per cent. At Nuneaton the original estimate was that there would be 22 per cent of properties in Band A; the actual figure is some 38 per cent. In Islington, London, the original estimate for Band C was 8 per cent; it has turned out to be 30 per cent.

Standards promise for GCSE

Continued from page 1

appease right-wing Tory backbenchers who have opposed the GCSE since its introduction. Mr Patten admitted that the report contained some positive findings. Marking schemes were sufficiently rigorous and marking was carried out thoroughly.

Inspectors expressed some reservations about examining procedures last year and the HMI and Seac were asked to review this year's arrangements. As well as inviting the examining boards to respond, Mr Patten has asked Lord Griffiths of Forest, the chairman of Seac, to come up with proposals for 1993 and 1994.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former Conservative education minister and long-standing critic of the GCSE, said: "We need an impartial enquiry with trained examiners looking at this year's papers and those of 1990 and 2000 to see whether there has been a real improvement or whether standards have remained static or declined."

Qualified success, page 2
Diary, page 10



See what the boys in the (Sotheby's) backroom will bid ...

EVEN Marlene Dietrich, that most glamorous and provocative screen goddess, grew slightly embarrassed by the dazzling display of rubies and diamonds. She called it her "Boudier bracelet", after the flamboyant Hollywood director, because it

was so large and splashy. Now Sotheby's New York is to sell the bracelet (top, right) on October 19 and have given it an estimate of £150,000-£200,000. John Block, director of Sotheby's jewelry department in New York, said it is "one of the most exciting pieces of

jewellery from an era of glamour and elegance embodied perfectly by its owner". He calls it a "masterpiece of 1930s design". Dietrich commissioned the bracelet, based on a Cartier necklace, from an unknown French designer in 1937, and wore it many

times. In 1950 she wore it to the film *The Mirror*. It was the only film Dietrich made with Hitchcock and she starred alongside Jane Wyman and Richard Todd. In a key scene Dietrich, playing a manipulative musical star who is sus-

pected of murdering her husband, is seen seated in her dressing room wearing a black chignon gown by Dior and the bracelet. After the film Dietrich locked the bracelet away in a vault and, shortly before she died last May, instructed her family to sell it.

UN fears famine in Sarajevo

Continued from page 1

of convoys between the airport and the city centre the UN is trying to store whatever spare food it can fly in from Bosnia. Warehouse work, carried out by locals, is dangerous. There is rarely electricity in the hangars — the pulling of pallets is by hand — and they face occasional shelling from mortar positions. Together with the rest of the city the workers face snipers' bullets during what remains of Sarajevo's morning rush hour.

A fifth warehouse is being commissioned by the UN in Vitez, 40 miles from Sarajevo in Bosnian/Croatian controlled territory. However, even if all the warehouses were full their contents would feed the besieged city for only

a few weeks, to say nothing of other towns and outlying areas suffering the same lethal mix of hunger, war and winter. "We are in a race against time," said Mr Espeland.

Elsewhere in the city 40 Royal Engineers continued to work on reinforcing dangerously exposed United Nations monitors' bunkers. They worked under sporadic shelling and sometimes had to take cover against the gun battles around them. "It is a nightmare," said one corporal. "Some of the lads are working under fire when they get on the job. If you are seen doing work near one side's gun emplacement, the other side will open up on you," he added.

Jihad feared, page 8

Fischer rails against the world

Continued from page 1

scinded, so for many other reasons I have no respect for the UN. Do I consider myself in violation of the UN sanctions? Yes."

Asked if he regarded himself as an anti-communist fighter who was ill-treated by the United States, and for his response to reports that he had been characterised as anti-Semitic, he said: "First you have to understand what communism is. To me real communism, Soviet communism is basically a mask for Bolshevism which is a mask for Judaism ... anti-Semitism is a nonsense term because my understanding is that the Arabs are also Semites, not only the Jews so I don't know what that means. I'm definitely not anti-Arab."

The match takes place at the Montenegrin holiday resort of Sveti Stefan, once the haunt of the world's beautiful people. It is a bizarre place for a chess comeback. The US Sixth Fleet is somewhere out to sea, monitoring compliance with the UN embargo. Death notices are stuck on trees in nearby towns. By playing in the new Yugoslavia Fischer has been told by the US Treasury department that he will violate UN sanctions.

The man who inspired the musical *Chess* but who forfeited his title could face a fine and a prison sentence on his return to America. Whether or not he is arrested both he and Spassky will be a lot richer than when they arrived. Match organiser Jevrimir Vasiljevic, one of the

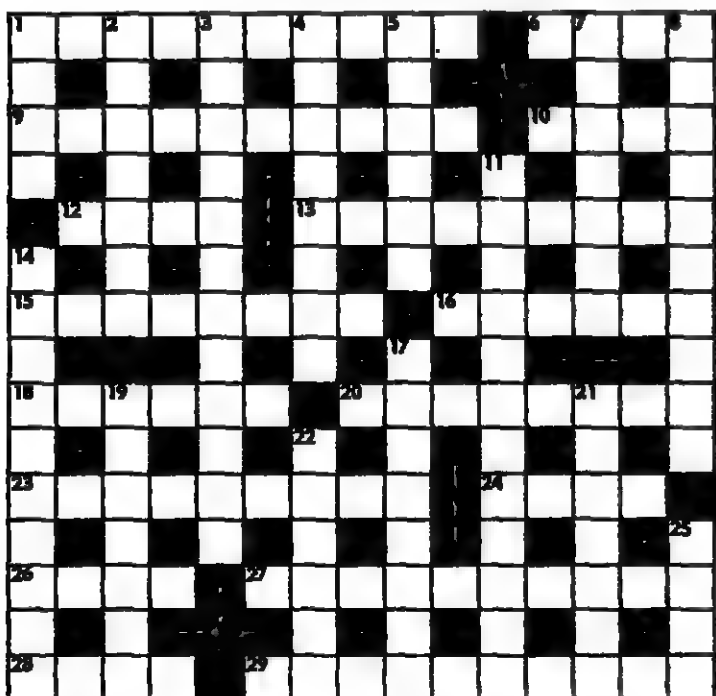
richest men in Yugoslavia, will pay the winner about £2 million.

Asked whether he was worried by the prospect of punishment he pulled out a letter from the US Department of Trade, warning him against playing, leant forward and pretended to spit on the table.

There was more. Chess fans around the world had been duped for years. "All of the matches between Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov were pre-arranged," he said. Even the blunders were staged he claimed and he would write a book to expose everything.

Quite what Mrs Fischer, Bobby's Jewish mother, would now make of her son the chess player, is hard to say.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,013



- ACROSS**
- 1 Daff reason for moving (10).
 - 2 The river for sport (4).
 - 3 Finish in a day without being lonely (10).
 - 4 Appear restless, after which the penny drops? (4).
 - 5 Show disapproval of audible interference (4).
 - 6 Instrument to captivate ear, in part (5, 4).
 - 7 Explorer, clever chap, appearing all round the North (8).
 - 8 Went blindly on, attached to group leader (6).
 - 9 Type a note in French (6).
 - 10 Fighter drops hand, having severe pain (8).
 - 11 Odd clue — guess the name of a mathematician (9).
 - 12 Sound subject for Gogol's tale? They wouldn't agree (4).
 - 13 Under pressure, bend rule (4).
- DOWN**
- 1 Put up money a number of times for poets (4).
 - 2 Room at the top? (7).
 - 3 Set an example of such brevity (12).
 - 4 Chaucer, say, summoned for jury service? (8).
 - 5 The chaste Miss Tilley at the end of the bill (6).
 - 6 Police finally caught rascal in selfish enterprise (3, 4).
 - 7 Girl, rather angry, went this colour? (4, 6).
 - 8 Most distressful tendency in court case (5, 7).
 - 9 Susan: one name perhaps for a secretary (10).
 - 10 What successful Yankee puts in pocket (8).
 - 11 Monarch to free imprisoned servant (7).
 - 12 US president places prohibition on a Japanese art (7).
 - 13 Eccentric word that's spelt incorrectly (6).
 - 14 Cries from the yard (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,012

1. PLEASANTLY
2. RIVER
3. FINISH
4. APPEAR
5. SHOW
6. INSTRUMENT
7. EXPLORER
8. WENT
9. TYPE
10. FIGHTER
11. ODD
12. SOUND
13. UNDER
14. CRIES
15. DOWN
16. PUT
17. ROOM
18. SET
19. CHAUCER
20. POLICE
21. GIRL
22. MOST
23. SUSAN
24. WHAT
25. MONARCH
26. US
27. ECCENTRIC
28. CRIES

Concise Crossword, Page 9
Life & Times section

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by nine per cent of the competitors at the 1992 Birmingham regional final of The Times InterCity Crossword Championship.

WEATHER
Northern Scotland will have sunny intervals and showers, while southern Scotland and Northern Ireland will have rain. England and Wales will be mainly cloudy, with showers in the North and West. Eastern and southern areas will have light rain, followed by a drier spell then showers later. It will be windy in the South, with gales on the coast. Outlook: unsettled, cool and showery, with more prolonged rain in the South on Friday.

				Sun Rain in Miles.			

TODAY IN BUSINESS

BULLISH TALK



Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman of the London Stock Exchange, says Taurus will broaden share ownership
Page 19

SHARP FALL

Persimmon, the housebuilder, announced a sharp fall in profits, rocking the rest of the sector
Page 17

CASHING IN



Unit trusts suffered a £141.7 million net outflow of funds in July, the largest since the Gulf war
Page 17

WAITING GAME

Gatt talks are on hold in Brussels as the EC awaits the outcome of the French vote on Maastricht in three weeks
Page 17

HIGH COSTS



Heavy operational costs continue to cast a shadow over Lufthansa despite weekend talks on a pay freeze
Page 16

Plunging dollar puts pressure on ERM

Sterling tops \$2 for first time since Gulf war

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND MICHAEL CLARK

STERLING closed above \$2 for the first time since the Gulf war as the dollar came under renewed pressure on the foreign exchanges. The US currency dropped to a disturbing new low of DM1.3905 after reports that the Federal Reserve had intervened in support of the currency refuelled bearish sentiment in the market.

Currency analysts saw the fresh dollar tumble heralding a downward lurch. Paul Chertkow, head of global foreign exchange strategy at UBS Phillips & Drew, said: "This is a dollar crisis in the making and its starting to spill over into the ERM (European exchange-rate mechanism)." The sagging dollar enabled the pound to climb back above \$2, but the strengthening mark nudged sterling down to DM2.7859 at the official 4pm close in London, its weakest since May 1990, and less than a pence from its absolute floor in the ERM. It ended last week at DM2.7874.

In late afternoon in Europe, the dollar traded as low as DM1.3915, after opening just above DM1.40. This pushed it below its previous worst of DM1.3940, recorded last Tuesday. In New York, it fell further to DM1.3905 before recovering slightly.

The pound's demise upset the equity market and sent share prices sliding to their lowest for almost 18 months. The FT-SE 100 index fell below 2,300 as investors headed for the comparative safety of the sidelines, leaving share prices to drift. The index managed to draw some comfort from an opening rise in the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street, but still finished 14.2 lower at 2,298.4, its lowest since February 20, last year. By the close of business, only 312 million shares had changed hands.

The thin foreign exchange market was focused on the dollar's weakness against the mark, a reflection of the unchanged 6.5 percentage point interest rate gap between America and Germany. The

only intervention detected was in support of the Italian lira. But the dollar's fall heightened tension within the ERM, albeit modestly compared with last week.

John Hall, currency analyst at Swiss Bank Corporation, said he expected the dollar to fall to DM1.35, given the transatlantic interest gap, the political risk, and ill-timed intervention last month.

Mr Chertkow foresees the dollar possibly plummeting as

Tokyo on Friday, it firmed to 122.60 to the dollar, its best this year.

American economic data out yesterday did nothing to lift the dollar. The National Association of Purchasing Management said its activity index for manufacturing fell to 53.7 per cent in August from 54.2 per cent in July. The government's main forecasting gauge, the index of leading indicators, showed a tiny 0.1 per cent increase in July.

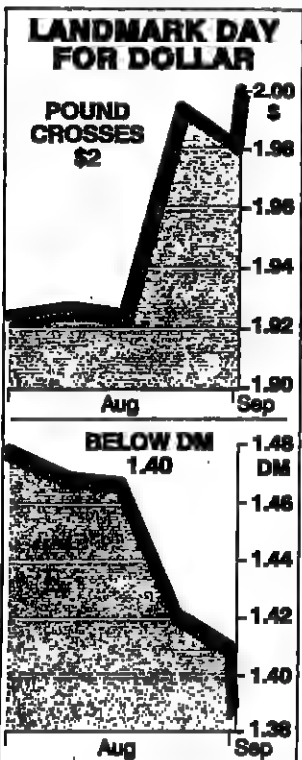
Growth expectations in Europe have also been downgraded. Henning Christensen, European commissioner for economic affairs, said yesterday that the Community was likely to grow about 1.5 per cent this year, instead of the 1.7 per cent forecast in the spring. Community finance ministers meeting in Bonn next weekend are expected to focus on contingency strategies to cope with the turmoil likely to emerge in the event of the French referendum on September 20 delivering a "no" to the Maastricht treaty.

Ministers are keen to avoid raising interest rates in the run-up to the French vote. Mr Christensen said in Copenhagen that he considered the European monetary system so strong that it would easily survive French rejection of the Maastricht treaty.

The Bundesbank council, which meets tomorrow, is not expected to indicate any easing of its monetary policy, despite growing fears of recession in Germany. No loosening is anticipated for some months, given Germany's excessive money supply growth.

Britain's Federation of Small Businesses fiercely attacked the government's economic strategy yesterday, saying that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, was "acting like a kamikaze pilot who is determined to reach his goal [low inflation] whatever the cost". The lobby group accused Mr Lamont of failing to consider a change of policy to end the recession.

Stock market, page 18



Winning team: Robert Wood celebrates with some of those who made the victory possible

Henlys drives off Cowie bid

By COLIN CAMPBELL

T. COWIE yesterday failed in its hostile takeover bid for Henlys Group, a fellow motor trader, when, by the 1pm deadline, Cowie had secured acceptances from only 42.63 per cent of Henlys equity.

Cowie won valid acceptances from 32.64 per cent of Henlys capital, or 12.35 million shares, and held 9.99 per cent of its bid target in its own right.

Gordon Hodgson, Cowie's chief executive, said the failure to win was "a little bit of a bitter pill to swallow". Fund managers had fallen for Henlys' promises, he said, but Cowie remained an acquisitive group and that it would still grow.

Robert Wood, Henlys' chief

executive, said he was "absolutely delighted" at seeing off Cowie and that his management would now get down to delivering the promises made during the defence.

Charterhouse Bank, which led Henlys' defence, said of the win that it was a case of a client having the right bullets, "which were fired at the right time, and in the right way".

Henlys estimates its defence costs at between £850,000 and £900,000. Cowie estimates its costs at about £600,000.

During the course of the bid, Cowie bought various parcels of Henlys shares in the market at an average price of 73p a share. Henlys made many claims about its future performance (as an indepen-

dent group), and, Mr Hodgson added, as a major shareholder in Henlys, "Cowie will watch with interest to see if these claims are fulfilled". Cowie suggested that a stock market that had fallen 20 per cent since the bid was launched in June worked against it.

Henlys said that fund managers and many ordinary shareholders accepted Henlys management's arguments that the group was on the threshold of recovery, and they were content to back management in front of the better days ahead. Cowie shares rose 5p to 126p. Henlys shares eased by 5p to 62p.

Comment, page 19

Hurricane

Andrew will cost at least \$7.3bn

By PATRICIA TEHAN

HURRICANE Andrew will cost insurers a minimum of \$7.3 billion, according to official estimates from America, making it the costliest storm in the country's history.

The estimates, from the American Insurance Services Group, are for damage to property in Florida. The group hopes to produce an estimate for storm damage in Louisiana today. The loss compares with the \$5.8 billion paid out by insurers worldwide for Hurricane Hugo, which destroyed parts of North America and the Caribbean in 1989.

Ron Krauss, of the American Insurance Services Group, said there are an estimated 685,000 insurance claims in Florida, 400,000 of them on buildings damaged or destroyed by the hurricane. The estimate does not include uninsured property losses or damage to crops, government property and public property, such as roads.

Although the bulk of the loss from the storm will be shouldered directly by American insurance companies, at least \$1.6 billion of it is likely to have been reinsured in the London insurance market, according to George Lloyd Roberts, chairman of the Lloyd's non-marine underwriters' association. He said \$5.3 billion of the loss is believed to be reinsured, with up to 30 per cent of it reinsured in London. This compares with estimates that the London market paid out half the reinsurance on Hurricane Hugo.

A Lloyd's spokesman said: "The general view appears to be that because of improved rates, a higher level of retention of primary risks by American insurers and a more balanced book of business, the impact on the Lloyd's and London market will be significantly less severe than was the case with Hurricane Hugo."

However, observers say Andrew is certain to send the market into losses for the fifth year running. Chaset, the independent consultant, had been forecasting the market would break even or make a small profit in 1992 as long as there were no large catastrophe claims this year.

Bush on tour, page 9

THE POUND

US dollar 2.0002 (+0.0157)
German mark 2.7859 (-0.0015)
Exchange index 92.1 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1670.0 (-10.6)
FT-SE 100 2298.4 (-14.2)
New York Dow Jones 3263.29 (+5.94)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 17740.06 (-321.06)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base, 10%
3-month interbank 10 1/8-10 1/2
3-month sight bills, 10 1/8-1/2
US: Prime Rate, 6%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills, 3 1/8-3 1/4%
30-year bonds, 9 7/8-10

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ \$1.9970
£ \$1.9970
£ DM2.7833
£ Sfr1.2387
£ FF4.7510
£ Yen22.94
£ Index 92.1
ECU 10.726798
ECU 10.726798
ECU 10.726798
London Forex market close

GOLD

London: New York: AM \$342.65 PM \$341.70
Close \$342.20-342.60
£171.25-171.75
New York: COMEX \$342.85-343.35*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.10/bbl (\$19.85)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.8 July (1987 = 100)
* Denotes midday trading price

United claims BA deal is illegal

By ROSS TIEMAN AND PHILIP ROBINSON



Point of entry: United's Larry Nagin seeks access to UK

THE British Airways plan to buy USAir is illegal under American law and would give the UK carrier the unfair advantage of having a hub airport on either side of the Atlantic, according to United Airlines.

The carrier is pressing the US authorities to respond to BA's move by demanding open access to British airports for American airlines. United would like to set up a British hub, possibly at Stansted, and also fly from America direct to British regional airports. Some American airlines suggest increased transatlantic competition could create thousands of jobs in Britain and make London the cheap travel capital of Europe.

Larry Nagin, United's head of corporate affairs, said the BA deal heralds a "defining point" in the history of aviation, where airlines become transatlantic. American carriers are determined not to be left on the sidelines. He was confident US officials shared United's view that the BA deal

Lufthansa part, page 16
Letters, page 19

Right turn takes Saturn to rising sun

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

CARMAKERS have complained for years that the Japanese are swamping world car markets while restrictive practices barred foreigners from selling cars to Japan. But General Motors has finally realised that there may be a simpler reason for the imbalance — the steering wheel is on the wrong side.

The American giant has taken more than 70 years to formally acknowledge that the Japanese, like we British, drive on the left side of the road and only now is it poised to launch in Tokyo the Saturn, an American-made model with the steering wheel on the right. In the land of the rising sun, the GM light bulb has just been switched on.

For years, car executives have com-

plained bitterly that their Japanese sales have been kept low by import curbs. Japan imports only 200,000 cars a year, or 4 per cent of the total market.

But among the first points raised by the Japanese at President George Bush's trade mission nine months ago was that America might sell more cars to the islands if they were made with the steering wheel and pedals on the right.

Analysts say that until now the Japanese market has not been regarded as important enough for GM to spend money offering a right hand drive version on the 10,000 vehicles it sells there each year. GM claims that in any case, left-hand-drive cars have cachet in Japan where "to be seen as different is fashionable". But while sales have been rising, it sold only 5,651 cars there in the first seven months of this year. Despite

exporting to the country since 1915, it was only three years ago that GM began selling any right-hand-drive cars at all. They were European-made Opel.

By contrast, Ford, through its 24 per cent ownership of Mazda, has entered the RHD market. They have been playing the motor game longer, of course. Henry's Model-T was already rolling off the production line when GM was just getting started in 1908. And even now, GM's big Japanese push will not start for another two years at least.

Its product will be the Saturn, a car it began producing in 1990 using Japanese methods of production and management which has proved highly successful and sold 76,000 in America. A GM spokesman said: "We have always said we would not start introducing the Saturn into Japan until the mid-90s."

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Passenger traffic 'worrying'

FROM REUTERS
IN GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL air passenger traffic was 10 per cent up on the same month last year in July but was still worryingly low, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said.

The organisation, which groups more than 200 international airlines, said freight traffic was up 8 per cent, or 6 per cent over the first seven months of the year. Passenger traffic was up 18 per cent over the first seven months.

Gunter Eser, IATA director general, said: "Frankly, these results are below expectations."

Herr Eser said that because 1991, the year of the Gulf war, was an abnormal year, the best yardstick was to measure traffic against the 1990 figures.

"If we compare January-July 1992 with January-July 1990, we see passenger traffic growth of 7 per cent and freight traffic up 4 per cent," he said.

"When the increase in capacity of 13 per cent during the period is taken into account, the figures are worrying."

Unions accept pay freeze at cost-laden Lufthansa

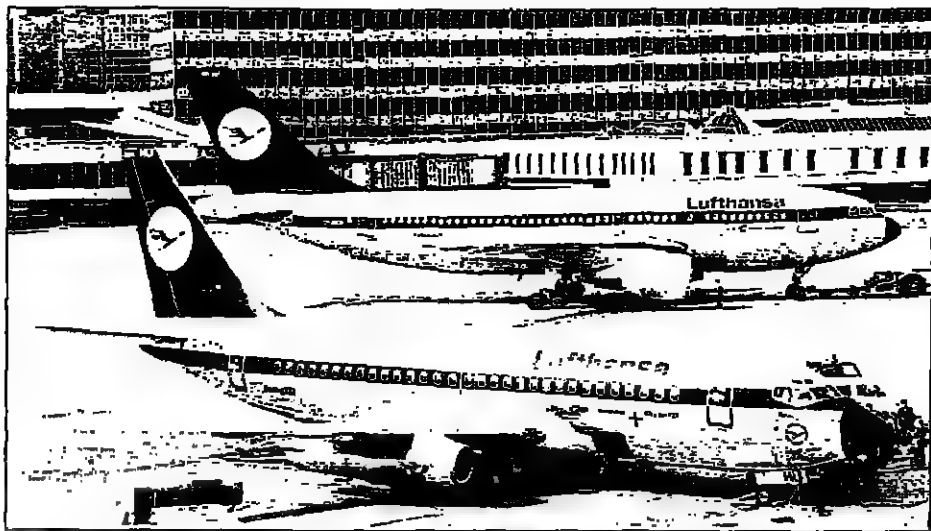
By Wolfgang Münchau

THE last-minute pay package agreed between Lufthansa, the loss-making German airline, and its two largest trade unions is unlikely to alleviate concern about its future as it continues to operate one of the largest cost structures in the industry.

After six days of hard bargaining Lufthansa's management and the ÖTV blue collar and DAG white collar trade unions agreed in a package which includes a pay freeze, in return for which Lufthansa will shelve plans to impose a new wage structure for its domestic operations.

Lufthansa had originally planned to hive off its domestic operations into a subsidiary, Lufthansa Express, as an independent business with its own pay structure. The original plan had brought the trade unions close to what one official called "the pain threshold".

Lufthansa's decision to backtrack from the imposition of a new pay structure means that its staff will continue to enjoy among the highest salaries paid in the airline business. The agreement is part of



On hold: Lufthansa privatisation is still not ready for take-off despite the new deal

a package to save about DM500 million and has succeeded in alleviating some of the worst fears, including those of a DM1 billion loss for the whole year, as had been expected by some analysts.

The German government is, in principle, in favour of privatisation of the airline but the task will be formidable, if at all possible. In the past

plans have never made it beyond the debating stage. Lufthansa's cost problem is illustrated in a comparison with British Airways, where personnel costs amount to about 24 per cent of revenues against a Lufthansa's 33 per cent. Lufthansa insists that the agreement "contributes considerably to making the cost structure of Lufthansa interna-

tionally more competitive and bringing the firm back on the road to profit". It also set new salary structures for flight and cabin staff, while working hours will become more flexible. About 8,000 jobs will go over the next two and a half years and investment cut. Lufthansa says savings will amount to DM1.2 billion until end-1994.

Qantas returns to profit

FROM REUTERS
IN SYDNEY

QANTAS Airways, Australia's international carrier, expects to report a pre-tax operating profit of more than A\$100 million (£36 million) for the year ended June 30, John Ward, chief executive, said.

Government-owned Qantas achieved an operating turnaround of "well over \$200 million" from the \$158.5 million loss in 1990-1, Mr Ward said, and expected a pre-tax operating profit "considerably in excess" of \$100 million in 1991-92.

He said: "Qantas has a head start in the region's aviation stakes and is poised to take full advantage of an economic upturn when it occurs."

Mr Ward told the committee for the economic development of Australia that a pre-tax profit of 10 per cent of group turnover of more than \$5 billion, or \$500 million, was expected when Qantas merged with Australian Airlines, the government's domestic carrier, and the recession ended.

Qantas and Australian Airlines will merge on September 14 and the new entity will be sold off in 1993.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Slimma purchase lifts Dewhirst to recovery

LAST October's acquisition of the Slimma businesses helped Dewhirst Group, the supplier to Marks and Spencer, to a substantial recovery in the first half of its current year. Pre-tax profits for the six months to July 17 jumped to £2.38 million, against £850,000, on sales of £81.3 million (£54.8 million). Earnings per share more than doubled, from 0.59p to 1.25p, despite the increase in the equity capital after the rights issue made to pay for Slimma. The interim dividend is lifted from 0.29p to 0.32p.

Anthony Vice, chairman, says that, although demand remains depressed, the group is achieving higher sales and he expects to report further progress in 1992-3. Women's wear performed well, although demand showed little improvement. Menswear remained static. Children's wear and toiletry textiles both suffered from low demand and further action has been taken to reduce costs.

Bemrose expands

BEMROSE Corporation has agreed to buy Rowton Crystal from the Thorpland family for an initial consideration of £258,000, with further profit-related payments up to a maximum of £500,000, payable by 1995. Rowton is a market leader in the etching and engraving of crystal glass and other materials. In 1991, turnover and loss after tax amounted to £1.4 million and £10,077 respectively, while net assets at December 31 were £242,727.

Strong and Fisher falls

STRONG and Fisher, the leather and sheepskin processor 70.3 per cent owned by Hillsdown Holdings, expects to maintain a final dividend even though interim pre-tax profits fell to £2.17 million (£5.23 million). In the six months to end June turnover was almost unchanged at £44.39 million but operating profits fell to £675,000 (£4.3 million). The decline was offset by a £535,000 exceptional profit from property sales. Fully diluted earnings were 0.8p a share (2p).

Astec back in the black

ASTEC (BSR), the Hong Kong electronic components manufacturer, has bounced back into the black with pre-tax profits of £2.2 million (loss of £2.7 million) for the six months to June 28. This was achieved despite sales from the group's businesses falling £9 million to £117 million. Sales from the power conversion division rose marginally to £83.1 million, but turnover of electronic components fell from £52 million to £41 million. There is no interim dividend for the second year.

Flogas raises dividend

FLOGAS Group, the Irish-based liquid gas supplier, reports a pre-tax profit of £7.16 million for the 13 months ended June 30, compared with previous annual profit of £6.74 million. Turnover was 4.8 per cent lower at £48.12 million, principally due to lower selling prices. Gearing at balance sheet date was 12 per cent. The business climate was difficult, not helped by a mild winter. Total dividend for the year is 18.72p (18.41p). The shares were unchanged at 210p.

Acco wins Ford deal

ACCO Systems, of Michigan, a subsidiary of FKI, the electrical engineer, has won a \$10 million contract from Ford. Acco will do the final design, manufacture and implementation of a material handling system for use in the new Ford 2.5 litre and 3 litre engines. It will begin installation next month and work should be finished by August. Ford plans to begin engine production using the new system, which will have five miles of conveyor, in May 1994.

Volvo Truck cuts costs

VOLVO Truck Group, a subsidiary of AB Volvo, intends to cut annual costs by SKr2 billion (£196 million) by 1995 in order to return to profit. The company said this was needed to stay competitive. "We don't expect any external factors like improved markets or a [stronger] dollar to help us, so we have to do it ourselves," a Volvo Truck spokesman said. The subsidiary had an unspecified first-half loss as part of AB Volvo's SKr103 million loss after financial items.

Peek buys Oslo firm

PEEK, the traffic systems group, has acquired Gemo Elektro of Norway for Nkr4.77 million (£431,000), comprising Nkr3.09 million in cash and Nkr1.68 million in PEEK shares to be retained for at least one year. Gemo, based in Oslo, designs and installs traffic control systems. Its products include traffic controllers and signals, variable signs, barriers, pay and display units and parking control systems. PEEK's existing business in Norway will be merged with Gemo.

Eurocopy warns on profits

By COLIN CAMPBELL

EUROCOPY, the photocopier distributor whose 1991 profits were severely affected by the fall-out from the adverse publicity that followed a government enquiry into the selling practices of some of its subsidiaries, has issued a warning about the profits in the second half of its current financial year.

Michael Armitage, the finance director, said that the recession continued to affect trading and that the improved level of business confidence that was evident after the general election had now disappeared.

Eurocopy has achieved cost savings of about £200,000, but, Mr Armitage said, it was still likely that the results for the six months to the end of September would show only a modest improvement on the pre-tax profits £720,000 earned in the first half that ended in March.

Eurocopy then declared an unchanged, but uncovered, interim dividend of 1.1p a share.

The group is soon to serve a writ, claiming £9.2 million from Sketchley from which it bought a Scottish photocopier company as part of its 1989 acquisition of Equipu.

Eurocopy's shares fell 6p to 33p immediately after yesterday's announcement from the company.

Torday & Carlisle axes payout

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHAREHOLDERS in Torday & Carlisle, the Tyneside engineer, are losing their interim dividend after continuing problems at the Oldham Signs division forced the group into loss in the first half of this year.

The pre-tax loss for the six months is £353,000, which compares with a profit of £799,000 in the first half of 1991, and is blamed entirely on the continuing difficulties at Oldham, the neon sign manufacturer, which has been up for sale since June. Its losses are put at £972,000 for the period.

Paul Torday, the group's chief executive, says that with Oldham's future unresolved — negotiations are said to be proceeding — it would be "inappropriate" to declare an interim dividend.

A year ago, holders received 1.5p a share. The position regarding the final dividend, which was cut from 4.7p to 3p last March, will be reviewed on the basis of the continuing businesses, which are currently profitable and growing.

Diesel Marine International made £902,000 against £860,000, while Elfab-Hughes slipped from £412,000 to £380,000.

Group gearing stood at 55 per cent at June 30, compared with 51 per cent at the year end.

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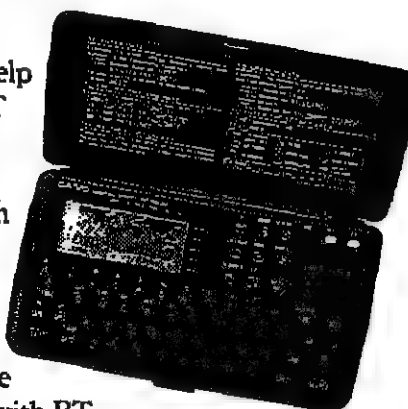
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NFC TS1

Persimmon fails to see stumbling blocks

THE one real curiosity about yesterday's interim results from Persimmon is that Duncan Davidson, the house-builder's chairman, could ever have imagined that they would turn out differently.

Mr Davidson and his team knew full well that expensive land bought in the late eighties would be working its way through the Persimmon housebuilding machine this year. What was going to rescue margins? A sudden rise in house prices? A sharp jump in sales? Surely Mr Davidson has been building houses for too long for much credence to be attached to either in conditions like these? But six months ago, Persimmon was happy to live with analysts' forecasts approaching £25 million for the current year.

True, expectations were nudged towards £20 million three months ago but, in the light of first half pre-tax profits of just £7.3 million, even that looks optimistic. Why the shortfall? We shall probably never know, but the stock market will remember the unwelcome surprise long after it has forgotten the figures.

The irony is that, surprise apart, there appears to be nothing in the results to tarnish Persimmon's hitherto respected reputation, especially given the refreshing policy of only writing down the value of loss-making sites in the 13,300 plot land bank. Such a policy made a squeeze on margins inevitable. So it proved, with margins slumping from 18.2 per cent to 10.1 per cent.

Although the average selling price rose marginally to £63,000, prices on a like-for-like basis were about 8 per cent down on the year. The average cost of achieving each sale through a range of incentives is a margin shrinking £5,000 per completion.

The company's commitment to increasing volumes was successful, with a record 1,128 units sold. Further increases should flow from the 40 new sites that the com-



Nasty surprise: Duncan Davidson, Persimmon's chairman, announced interim profits down to £7.3 million

pany has brought on stream at a cost of about £12 million, one of the factors responsible for a rise in net borrowings to £32 million and gearing to 32 per cent.

Profits of about £16 million look possible, which after yesterday's sharp fall puts the shares on a price earnings multiple of more than 13 and a yield of 7.7 per cent, assuming a maintained final dividend. After yesterday's surprise, first-time buyers might require further assurances before parting with their cash.

Macfarlane

FURTHER proof that tight-run companies that live within their means can survive in this recession, and even prosper,

comes with a 13 per cent advance in pre-tax profits at Macfarlane Group (Clansman) in the first half of 1992.

Turnover edged ahead only marginally, at £42.3 million, but Lord Macfarlane's team has kept a firm grip on costs throughout the group, and of course, with £6 million in the bank, there are no crippling interest payments to make.

All three divisions within the group increased their contribution to profits, including the main packaging business, still responsible for some 70 per cent of the whole. Perhaps the most welcome news, however, is that the so-called development division, dominated by the self-adhesive label business, has returned to profit.

Macfarlane is feeling the

same recessionary pressures as everyone else, and sees no hint of an upturn in its markets, but is a company that is justifiably in a position to take advantage of the conditions, and the "outstanding investment opportunities" that Lord Macfarlane believes will arise.

Mark Hudson, at BZW, sees no reason to alter his prediction that the group can make £9.8 million over the full year, even though he remains at the top of the market range. This would equal Macfarlane's record 1990 performance and produce earnings of more than 15p a share, justifying a further hike in the dividend, perhaps to 4.8p a share.

Part of this comes now in the shape of an increased

interim payment of 1.88p, against 1.75p, which sets the group on course for its twentieth annual dividend rise.

The market has consistently shared Lord Macfarlane's confidence, as witnessed by the resilience of the share price in the face of tumbling equity markets in recent months. At 177p yesterday, 2p higher on the day, they sell for just over 13 times prospective earnings, and if conditions generally were not so soggy, would be a firm buy. As it is they are a strong hold.

More productivity gains are likely this year, and Haynes should be capable of achieving pre-tax profits about the £3 million mark.

At 194p, up 4p, the shares trade on 10.9 times prospective earnings, backed by a 4.1 per cent yield. Haynes is attractive not only for further profits improvements, but also as a vehicle for any foreign group wanting a foothold in Britain and on to the Continent. Hold on.

Haynes Publishing

FORGET circulation wars. The philosophy of Haynes Publishing Group is: go for profits — and be damned.

Having restructured its British division, which has involved the number of titles being pruned from 1,000 to about 500, and has also involved a further reduction in the headcount, Haynes is able to report a sharp improvement in margins and a stronger balance sheet for the year to end-May.

Pre-tax profits jumped from £26,000 to £237 million on a turnover that rose by 10 per cent to £212 million — a figure which makes a particularly soft second-half turnover in Britain. The final dividend is raised from 1.5p to 3.5p, making a total of 6p, against 2.5p.

But for £928,000 of exceptional costs, of which £528,000 were associated with a lower headcount, pre-tax profits might well have challenged the peak levels seen in 1990, when £3.09 million was recorded. Perhaps this year.

The general dusting up of UK operations saw net borrowings fall from £4 million to £1.5 million, equivalent to 14 per cent gearing, and Haynes has its sights on being totally unencumbered as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the group is set to reap £1 million of cost savings that will flow from a reduced workforce, and is casting its eye over selected European markets, in which it aims to expand.

The American division ended its year cash positive and turned in higher profits in a difficult market, but, as in Britain, the American economic outlook in 1993 is uncertain.

More productivity gains are likely this year, and Haynes should be capable of achieving pre-tax profits about the £3 million mark.

At 194p, up 4p, the shares trade on 10.9 times prospective earnings, backed by a 4.1 per cent yield. Haynes is attractive not only for further profits improvements, but also as a vehicle for any foreign group wanting a foothold in Britain and on to the Continent. Hold on.

American blue chips rise in late morning

New York — Shares were little changed in directionless, late-morning dealings, although rising airline shares helped to lift the Dow transport index. The Dow Jones industrial average was 3,655 points higher at 3,261, having been as high as 3,262 and as low as 3,254.

□ Hong Kong — Prices closed firmer after an early-morning dip as selling orders began to dry up by mid-morning, although turnover remained thin. The Hang Seng index finished the day 82.97 points higher at 5,711.97. Brokers saw room for a further rise this month. The all-ordinaries index closed 37.80 points up at 3,041.11 on a turnover of HK\$2.71 billion (about £177 million). HSBC Holdings led

the list of most active shares, gaining HK\$2 to close at HK\$56.50 on the back of last week's results.

□ Frankfurt — The dollar's renewed tumble and a gloomy forecast about the country's economy from a business leader sent shares falling 1.3 per cent. The Dax index lost 22.55 points to 1,518.70, virtually wiping out Monday's 24.78-point gain.

□ Singapore — Prices closed easier on thin selling, led by concerns at the market's lack of direction. The Straits Times industrial index fell 3.08 points to 1,375.46.

□ Sydney — Shares closed lower in a generally quiet day. The all-ordinaries index closed 4.7 points lower at 1,542.5. (Reuters)

Nikkei falls 321 points in indifferent trading

Tokyo — Shares closed lower in listless, dealer-driven trading. The Nikkei index fell 321.06 points, or 1.78 per cent, to 17,740.06. Incentive-backed issues supported by special factors or speculation were the focus of activity, while revised fears about earnings revisions affected leading high-technology shares. Turnover slipped to about 550 million shares, compared with 565 million shares on Monday. Institutional investors remained on the sidelines.

One Japanese broker said: "Nobody is really buying or selling very aggressively. People are getting bored."

Prices opened modestly weaker and drifted lower as

investors moved to take profits after the market's robust Friday rally. The Nikkei quickly slipped below 18,000 to reach its low for the day, at 17,699.72, in the late morning, down 361.4 points from Monday's close. In the afternoon, it fluctuated in a narrow band and ended just above its low. The Nikkei was 1,359.29 points above last Tuesday's close.

Ken Nakamichi, of Morgan Stanley, said: "The Nikkei index is likely to move in a range from 17,500 to 18,500 for now." Declining shares outnumbered rising shares by about five to two, with 751 lower, 285 higher and 82 unchanged. (Reuters)

SMALLER COMPANIES

Storm weathers slippery shares

Animation and licensing companies have an uneasy relationship with the City, best illustrated by the lacklustre performance of shares in Sleepy Kids and Poddington since flotation on the stock market. Storm Group, known for the popular *Shoe People* cartoon, has stumbled across the same hurdle and its shares have slipped from 19p to 10p over the past year, compared with the 25p flotation price in 1989. But the company is far from discouraged and is pressing ahead with plans to create one of Europe's leading animation and licensing concerns.

Two significant developments took place in the first half of this year. Storm acquired FilmFair, a subsidiary of Central Television, for £1.73 million, strengthening its portfolio of characters, with a back catalogue that includes *The Wombles*, *Paddington Bear* and *The Perishers*. That was followed by Storm's appointment as Paramount Pictures' exclusive licensing and merchandising representative in Britain.

Storm's licensing operation has been restructured to manage the anticipated increase in business. A dedicated licensing operation in London covers Britain and has separate teams managing the company's properties and third-party representations, such as Paramount.

Despite the reorganisation, licensing and merchandising activities, helped by Paramount, contributed to earnings in the first half when Storm saw profits rise from £50,000 before tax to £407,000, and earnings per share from 0.07p to 0.38p. The com-

pany hopes to pay its first dividend at the end of the second half.

The company structure now bears a resemblance to Carlton Communications in its infancy. It is a far cry from the days when James Driscoll, now chairman of Storm, created *Shoe People*, including PC Boot, Trampy and Wellington, which have become firm favourites on children's television on both sides of the Atlantic.

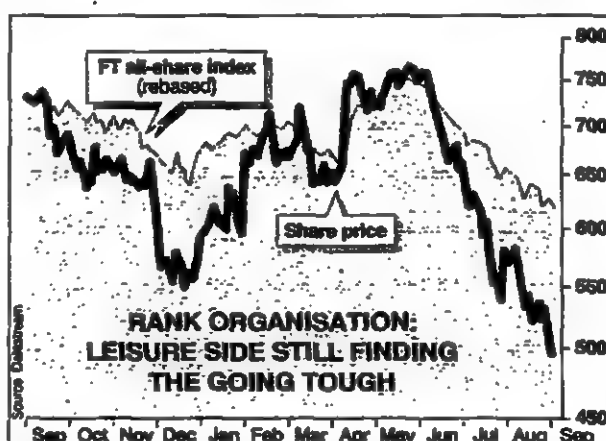
FilmFair completed three animation productions for Independent Television in the first half and expects to complete another three for GMTV, the BBC and ITV in the second half. A cartoon version of *Treasure Island* is also in production. Storm also has a portfolio of trade publications serving the international licensing, merchandising and toy industries in Britain and America. These made a small loss in the first half, reflecting the impact of the recession and of the reorganisation that followed the acquisition of *Toy and Hobby World* magazine, a leading American toy trading magazine.

The simultaneous acquisitions of FilmFair and *Toy and Hobby World* were funded via a placing and open offer of one new share for every two held at 13p each, raising £3.27 million. The cash call generated additional funds to meet the cost of Storm's ambitious production schedule, which will underpin licensing and merchandising activities in the long term. Investors who have so far waited patiently as Storm's strategy gained momentum are unlikely to be disappointed.

MARTIN BARROW

STOCK MARKET

Shares slide as investors worry about ailing pound



RANK ORGANISATION: LEISURE STILLS FINDING THE GOING TROUGH

THE ailing pound was again causing anxiety for investors in the equity market, where share prices dipped below the 2,300 level.

Sterling's renewed weakness against the mark sent a shudder through the Square Mile as it came perilously close to its basement level with the exchange-rate mechanism.

Reassurances during the weekend that this was mainly a problem for the dollar and that the pound was now over the worst seemed to have a hollow ring for most fund managers.

Many of them now seem content to maintain a low profile until such time as the pound stabilises, or the outcome of the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty is known.

As a result, selling pressure was minimal yesterday with turnover levels tumbling to some of their lowest of the year.

By the close of business, only 312 million shares had changed hands. The FT-SE 100 index drew some comfort from an opening rise on Wall Street, but the absence of support in London provided little scope for a sustainable rally.

The FT-SE 100 index eventually closed 14.2 points down at 2,298.4, its lowest point since February, 1991.

Depressed brokers believe that the market still has further to fall and that the next few weeks, being the run-up to the French referendum, could test the nerve of institutional investors and private investors alike.

Among the leaders, there were losses for ICI, 2p to 10.63p, BAT Industries, 17p to 723p, BOC Group, 12p to 610p, BET, 10p to 104p, Courtalds, 17p to 412p, Glaxo, 16p to 706p, Redland, 13p to 351p and SmithKline Beecham, 13p to 431p.

Dealers are hoping that the large number of the leading companies unveiling their half-year trading statements within the next few weeks will provide some sort of update on trading conditions and the state of the economy.

The interim dividend season starts tomorrow, with figures from Ladbroke, the betting, property and hotels group.

Analysts are forecasting a rise in Ladbroke's pre-tax profits from £98.2 million to £105

million and a maintained dividend. But the profits are expected to be distorted by surpluses from the sale of properties, totalling £20 million.

Ladbroke's shares have been a weak market of late, sliding from a peak of 220p. They closed last night 2p firmer at 143p.

Cadbury Schweppes, the soft drinks and confectionery group, was a weak market, losing 7p at 329p before the half-year figures later this month. Analysts are worried that the poor summer will have hit the sales of soft drinks.

Rank Organisation's shares fell 14p to 490p after Kleinwort Benson, the broker,

finished 2p lighter at 286p, after touching 293p, Lloyds reverted to close unchanged at 402p, after 408p, TSB Group ended 1p lower at 126p, after 129p, while National Westminster firmed 7p to 301p and HSBC rose 4p to 344p.

Fisons reached 180p on claims that Opticrom, the group's eye treatment drug, had finally been approved by the American Food and Drug Administration. Marketing of the drug in the United States was halted after the FDA decided that the group's production methods had dropped below the standard required. But Fisons quickly played down the report, saying that if approval had been granted,

the company would have issued a press release. Fisons is due to unveil its interim figures next Tuesday. The shares later closed 5p better at 173p.

Half-year figures from Persimmon, the housebuilder, clearly reflected the effects of the slump, with pre-tax profits dropping 42 per cent to £7.25 million. Duncan Davidson, the chairman, said that the company was doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances. First-time buyers remained worried about rising unemployment.

The news from Persimmon also took its toll on the other housebuilders, with Barrat Developments falling 8p to 41p, Bellway dropping 10p to 200, Berkeley Group losing 6p to 192p, Countryside Properties declining 8p to 55p, Lillie falling 1p to 84p, Prowling falling 4p to 85p, Westbury losing 5p to 57p, Wilson Bowden dropping 20p to 232p and Wilson (Consolidated), dropping 5p to 100p. George Wimpey was another weak market, falling 12p to 85p before its figures shortly, which are expected to show a further downturn. Analysts are already forecasting a cut in the dividend.

There was little respite for the building products sector. Last week, County NatWest, the broker, turned seller of the sector, forecasting that 18 of the 31 companies it covered would cut the dividend.

There were new setbacks for Anglian Group, 6p to 198p, BPS Industries, 5p to 132p, Blue Circle Industries, 7p to 151p, Hepworth, 6p to 258p, Marley, 2p to 66p and Pilkington, 3p to 86p.

Healey, the coach-builder, fell 5p to 62p after it emerged that T Cowie's £30 million offer for the company had lapsed after receiving only 42.6 per cent acceptances. Cowie finished the session 5p better at 126p.

Lucas Industries, the automotive and aerospace components group, fell 6p to 77p after a group of its pensioners decided to challenge the legality of the transfer of £150 million from the pension fund to the company.

Lucas said the money had been legally transferred by the pension fund's trustees last year and with the permission of the unions and most of the pensioners.

MICHAEL CLARK

MAJOR CHANGES

ADT	400p (+11p)	Larstone	142p (-12p)
News Corp	879p (+54p)	Hartstone	448p (-10p)
Rank Org	490p (-14p)	Courtaulds	412p (-17p)
MB-Canada	213p (-12p)	Bellway	200p (-10p)
Glaxo	706p (-16p)	Persimmon	148p (-25p)
GKN	340p (-10p)	PMC Group	450p (-10p)
Broken Hill	456p (-10p)	Tibury Douglas	423p (-15p)
BOC	610p (-12p)	Watts Blake	275p (-16p)
BET Ord	104p (-10p)	Wilson Bowden	232p (-20p)
Misy	259p (-14p)	G Wimpey	85p (-12p)

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THE TIMES

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MARY COLLINS 071-481 4481

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Customers called to account

The mere suggestion that the wicked banks are thinking of charging the good citizens of Britain for using their bank accounts has been enough to provoke predictable wails of protest from consumer groups and politicians alike. Banks are reviewing their charges constantly in a search for profits to counter bad-debt provisions. But there is little chance that any institution will introduce charges on credit balances this month, or even this year. Such a move would be exploited instantly by its rivals and lead to a slump in market share.

Banks are right to question whether the 20 per cent of customers who run overdrafts should pay the entire cost of running the network for the benefit of the majority of account holders who remain in credit. Intensifying competition in the late eighties scared banks into offering imprudent bargains to current account holders.

Today, the average account costs hundreds of pounds a year to run, but customers receive everything free, if they stay in credit. Accounts are still often free when they are up to £100 in the red. The banks are effectively giving money away at the expense of their borrowers, who are being forced to bear rising charges and interest margins as a result.

Banks now regret introducing such generous terms and believe that their customers should pay for the services they use. The problem they face is how to achieve this without causing a public outcry. There is no easy solution.

There is one area, however, that public watchdogs should guard against. A simultaneous move by the lenders to introduce charges may be innocent, because they all face the same financial pressures, but should be reviewed closely by the Office of Fair Trading.

Bidding goodbye

Hostile takeover bids, arguably the bane of corporate life for the past decade, have all but disappeared. In the eighties, industrialists complained of perpetual short-term decisions to boost their share prices to keep bidders at bay and not being given a chance to lay down long-term strategy.

At the end of June, nine takeover bids lay on the table for British companies. After yesterday's failure by Cowie to land Henlys, the number is down to three. One is the compulsory Hartwell bid for Trimoco, another is the £476 million agreed bid for Templeton Galbraith, the fund manager, by Franklin and the third is the bid for Dana Exploration.

The failure of Cowie's £30 million share bid, with part cash alternative, adds to the recent successful defence by Manders, the paint group, against Kalon's £107 million share bid and the resistance by Morland to Greene King's £101 million share bid with cash alternative bid.

The notable bid successes of late, Midland-Hong Kong, Capital and Counties-Transatlantic and Tyne Tees TV-Yorkshire TV, were all agreed. TI's successful attack on Dowty is an exception.

Remarkably, the Henlys share price languished well below the Cowie offer during the final stages, leaving fund managers with three options. Accept Cowie's shares and cash, sell in the market, or hold on for better times. A substantial proportion preferred the latter, indicating they think the market will be brighter in the future. But the dearth of corporate activity suggests this is some way off.

It is simply another sign that Britain works on an all or nothing principle, swinging from boom to bust with the economic cycle. Now is probably not the time to say it, but it was membership of the exchange-rate mechanism that was intended to smooth out such cyclical extremes.

Sir Andrew Hugh Smith says the Stock Exchange's computer settlement system will deepen the 'share owning democracy'

Ask anyone who reads the financial pages of a national newspaper what they know about Taurus and they will probably tell you that it is going to do away with share certificates. In the next breath, they will add either that it is "much delayed", or "long awaited". Both of these are true, but I prefer the latter, and am confident that the majority of those involved with the stock market are looking forward to Taurus being operational without further diversion.

I say the majority, because a project of this magnitude, which is going to implement significant change, will never please all of the people all of the time. However, contrary to some suggestions, Taurus is a securities industry development and not some famous Stock Exchange whim. To put this into context: Taurus will link about 400 stockbrokers, about 200 quoted companies, registrars, banks, custodians, nominees and numerous software houses. Their business goals seldom converge, so compromise and flexibility have been crucial factors throughout. Set all this against a backdrop of substantial changes to company law to meet government regulatory requirements, and you will begin to understand the hurdles that have earned Taurus the description, "much delayed".

The real hurdles have been overcome, enormous progress has been made and Taurus will soon emerge as something that introduces visible improvements to UK equity settlement.

The copious amounts of paper on the operational side will disappear, creating an electronic share transfer and registration service that will be more accurate, faster and consequently less risk-prone. Repeals of the well-publicised 1987 backlogs will be ruled out and London will end up with what will arguably be the most efficient settlement system in the world. The securities industry will match the banking industry, in terms of cost and simplicity, once securities are moved with the same speed and certainty as funds.

So we have an essential industry-wide development engineered to ensure that London retains its leading position in the international arena. At this point, some people begin to panic. What about private investors? The obvious questions relate to the loss of share certificates, system security and a complex design said to be hostile to private investors. While I can understand people's concerns at the prospect of change to a system that has been in existence for more than 100 years, it certainly would be alarming if any of these issues had not been addressed from the beginning. Private shareholders currently total about 10 million and



City radical: Sir Andrew will preside over the end of a system in place for more than a century

account for 70 per cent of the volume of transactions.

The exchange fully supports any initiatives that will contribute to a deeper share ownership, hence the support given to the creation of ProShare this year. However, I do believe that until Taurus is operational, the opportunities for a "share-owning democracy" remain limited. It is the computer infrastructure, supported by secure communications links, that will present opportunities to widen access to the stock market, both at home and overseas.

Perhaps I should emphasise that private client stockbrokers represented private investors' interests on the original Taurus design committee. There has since been full public consultation on relevant issues such as investor protection, the regulatory framework and education.

Taurus has, in fact, been designed to reflect the existing market structure as much as possible. The changes it brings will relate to the way in which shareholding and company registers are maintained and to the transfer of stock.

Under Taurus, trading will not differ greatly from today except that there will be no need to present a share certificate or sign a stock transfer form. Instead, investors will receive a computerised statement of their stock holding as and when each company in which they hold stock joins Taurus. The statements will

serve a similar purpose to today's certificate in terms of providing the shareholder with a record of ownership. They will be identified by an account number, which contrary to popular misconception, will not have to be memorised any more than a bank or building society account number.

Investors will receive separate statements from each of the companies in which they hold stock, so again, things will not differ significantly from today.

Registrars are currently working together with the Exchange to agree a standard format for the statement, so any fears that unintelligible computer printouts will arrive through the letterbox are again unfounded. New statements will be issued at least annually and whenever a share holding changes.

In a high-tech age, fraud and computer hacking have a high profile. What implications will this have for the electronic recording of shareholdings? Again, the importance attached to system security cannot be stressed enough and it must be said that part of the delay to date has been due to the need to enforce existing criteria, previously unknown even within the financial world. The most modern technology will be used to ensure that the system is impenetrable by unauthorised persons. There will always be doubt-

ers or maybe those who simply need reassurance, so I feel compelled to answer the inevitable "What if?". In the unlikely event that something does go wrong within the Taurus network, there will be extensive protection measures in place.

Our priority in designing Taurus was to ensure the highest level of protection for private investors. The government took a similar view and much of the Taurus legislation has been developed with investor protection in mind. The Stock Exchange has a statutory responsibility to screen participants in Taurus and government ministers took care to ensure that private investors would be protected by straightforward complaints procedures and, in the ultimate eventuality, a new and substantial Taurus compensation scheme.

If you are still not convinced, think about this. Each day, up to 30,000 deals are struck on the stock market. For settlement, the seller's name is removed from the share register and the buyer's credentials added. It sounds simple, but today each transfer requires a small army of clerks to move pieces of paper around the country. That is a waste of paper, time and money.

I hope I have allayed any unnecessary but understandable fears harboured by private investors. The exchange's education campaign is under way and all quoted companies have received comprehensive infor-

mation outlining the steps they need to take to join Taurus.

All shareholders will receive full details of Taurus well before any company in which they hold stock asks shareholders to pass the necessary resolution. It will take about two years for all companies to join Taurus, so inevitably there will be a period when investors with several holdings will have a combination of share certificates and statements. It will be well controlled and highly publicised, so investors need do nothing until they receive instructions directly from the company or their stockbroker.

In the three months since company voting began, Stock Exchange staff have attended several companies' AGMs. Based on a majority shareholder vote, about 40 companies, including FTSE constituents and privatisation issues, such as BT, with its 2.6 million shareholders, and Yorkshire Water, have now passed an enabling resolution to join Taurus at a mutually agreed date. I am encouraged by this response and believe it illustrates the inaccuracy of scaremongering suggestions that Taurus is the enemy of the private investor.

Taurus will make a big improvement to current efficiency but it should definitely not be regarded as an end in itself. It will lay the foundations for future innovations and developments within the securities industry.

Freed from the shackles of paper processing, brokers and registrars are looking to technology to find new ways of serving investors. Money and stock will both move quickly; linking these processes to today's automated dealing systems is not an enormous task and investor benefits will be clear.

Registrars acting for companies will be able to standardise registers and pass messages to each other electronically, so a central registration system for shareholdings, as envisaged by our colleagues at ProShare, may not be far off. The idea of centrally recorded shareholder records is certainly attractive but it is something that can only be carried forward once the Taurus infrastructure is in place.

Stockbrokers are also looking at new services to offer their clients; they may have more time to spend on investment advice, and the greater efficiency of Taurus will facilitate the administration of portfolio management. Taurus is not being built to the advantage of one particular sector. It will be for each organisation to determine how best to use and develop it for its customers' benefit.

Improvements to domestic share transfer and registration are vital. Once in place, Taurus will contribute to market liquidity and London's continued position as a leading international financial centre. I am not going to speculate here but I am sure that in the months ahead, subeditors are going to be coming up with radically different ways of describing Taurus. Many superlatives spring to mind.

Sir Andrew Hugh Smith is chairman of the London Stock Exchange.

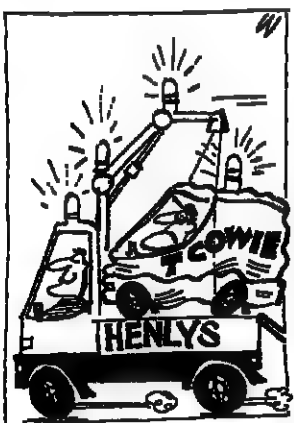
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Midland merger casualties

THE first casualties in the Hongkong & Shanghai-Midland Bank merger have been shown the door, with Midland Bank's employees coming off much the worse. At the end of last week, hot on the heels of an internal memorandum detailing the structure of the new organisation, 29 individuals in the asset management divisions were served with redundancy notices — 18 within Midland Montagu and 11 at James Capel, Hongkong & Shanghai's London broker. A Midland spokesman says: "They were all told about it on Friday and they were across the board. They will have included one or two senior people, as high as director level." Of the 29 redundancies, 12 were front office, 17 back office and none were voluntary. "It was all heralded under the terms of future integration as outlined in Hongkong & Shanghai's offer document for Midland earlier this year," Midland Montagu Asset Management is due to begin physical integration next week when it moves from Lower Thames Street into James Capel Asset Management's offices in Devonshire Square. The Midland spokesman denies there are further redundancies still to come. "That's it," he says. But only as far as asset management is concerned.

Wild cats

A BAND with the unifying name of *Dead Cat Bounce* may not sound the obvious



choice for the Lord Mayor's Ball in the Merchant Taylors Hall on September 18, but Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor, need not worry. The rock 'n' roll group is made up of an actress and five City fund managers and brokers, including Richard Berry, of Gerard Vivian Gray, and Nicholas Hollings, a unit trust portfolio manager, previously with Henderson Administration and now with James Capel. For the uninitiated, cat bounce, far from being an embarrassing new dance, is the Wall Street term the group has chosen as its name. Guiltarist, Piers Williamson, of Kleinwort Benson, explains: "It means a temporary market recovery after a crash. We're not wild really, just frustrated pop stars." Having said that, however, Hollings, one of his fellow performers, admits that one of the band's party pieces is to stage a limbo dancing contest while another is to play an audience-participation version of *Jump*, by Van Halen. "Everybody seems to want to jump towards the end of the

evening," Hollings says. He agrees that, given the weight of his chains of office, the Lord Mayor might be precluded from participating but he reveals that Ann, the Lady Mayor, is expected to take part. "Apparently, she's quite batty, good fun and the whole thing was her idea," Hollings says approvingly. "Yes," a Guildhall spokesman confirms. "She's certainly very enthusiastic and hands on."

Tall tales

JOURNALIST Nicholas Coleridge, also managing director of Conde Nast, has been leaving to the defence of his father, David, again, in the wake of the vote at Lloyd's last week that vindicated him. Now the worst seems over, Coleridge junior admits that one of the sources of the past few years has been the number of "fictitious" stories printed about his father in various newspapers, linking him with everyone from Pavarotti to the Queen. "The Pavarotti story involved some absolutely tiny offshoot of Lloyd's insuring Pavarotti and something going wrong but it was all hailed as usual as 'further trouble' for the 'beleaguered' Lloyd's chairman," the younger Coleridge says. Such stories, he adds, caused much puzzlement over the confusions in his father's household. "My father is a great wine-lover and for years he believed everything he read in the newspapers. When all this happened, he thought some of stories were very funny but he was also completely baffled."

CAROL LEONARD

Flying in formation would bring mutual benefits

From Malise Graham
Sir, The BA/USAir argument for their proposed merger is more than justified, being mutually beneficial to them and to the US airlines industry. Since 1945, US carriers have benefited from "freedom rights" within Europe. The European Commission for Transport, Dr Karen van Miers, noted at a briefing at the commission's London office "these are in effect cabotage rights, rights which our carriers do not have at all in the United States; moreover when BA's three slots in Tokyo were cancelled and increased access to UK airports granted to US carriers, they

possessed three times as many Tokyo slots as EC carriers combined". The US carriers demand for "equal opportunities" indicates either the phasing out of "freedom rights" or their reciprocation in the US. This latter option is inherent in the proposed BA/USAir deal. (Cabotage "is the reservation by a country to itself, of the right of air traffic within its borders... as far as the progress of international transport is concerned cabotage is about the finest form of sabotage".) The underlying problem of US airlines is financial. According to *Air Transport World* magazine they cannot

repay their bank loans. Expecting that new aircraft would continue their historic rise in value, banks have been lending up to 125 per cent of their price. However, with the decline in traffic since 1989 many new planes are "mothballed". US airlines losses since 1989 — \$6.5 billion — exceed the total profits of the past 70 years. In contrast, British Airways, is the world's most profitable airline. Consequently a new air services agreement based on "equal opportunities" would be mutually beneficial. Yours truly, MALISE GRAHAM, 40 Morris Road, Lewes, Sussex.

Paying by results

From Mr G. Larkbey
Sir, So the director general of the Confederation of British Industry reckons civil servants should finance their own pay rises through efficiency gains (August 24). If he and his fellow captains of industry were to apply this philosophy to their own increases, one wonders whether they would be as astronomical as some recent cases in point. Yours faithfully, GRAHAM LARKBEY, 61 Hornsey Lane Gardens, N6.

Waiting for zero

From Mr Gordon Dunn
Sir, Wouldn't it be marvellous if there was zero inflation. In every industry and business, price lists could be printed again. Taxes could remain stable apart from continuous small refinements downwards. A salary increase would be entirely for merit. Increased turnover in a business would

Manufacturing capacity needs restoring

From Mr Roger Harris
Sir, Your Business Leader (August 25) "Overvaluation of Sterling" could well have referred to the continuing rise of imports (even in a recession) and the undervaluation of manufacturing industry. Recent observations amongst retailers of the high street and warehouse varieties demonstrates the increasing range of low-tech products being imported from high wage economies. Metal chairs from the USA, gas barbecues from Canada, wooden domes-

tic fittings from West Germany, and so on. Surely this supports the views of Sir Michael Grylls, MP, that we must urgently look for new financial mechanisms by which we can reinforce and rebuild our manufacturing industry. All too soon the benefits of domestic produce crude oil will disappear and the crunch of returning to a world of real trading will face us. Those optimists of the eighties, who believed that the future of our balance of payments was safe underpinned by financial services and tourism, are now seen to be wrong. Without a new and determined commitment to restore much of our manufacturing capacity, we will be bestowing on our grandchildren endless currency rises. Yours faithfully, ROGER W. HARRIS, Bristol Chamber of Commerce, Signet Signs Ltd, 45 West Town Road, Blackwell, Bristol.

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No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	BP Petroleum	Oil, Gas	0.00
2	Marshall	Breweries	0.00
3	Peon	Electrical	0.00
4	Ordnance	Industrial	0.00
5	Thames TV	Leisure	0.00
6	Parsons	Engineering	0.00
7	Storhouse	Drugs, Sps	0.00
8	Bridgeport	Industrial	0.00
9	Thames Valley	Leisure	0.00
10	MTM	Chemicals	0.00
11	Wool	Textiles	0.00
12	Prudential	Bank, Disc	0.00
13	Boddington	Breweries	0.00
14	Amberley	Bank, Disc	0.00
15	Ladbrokes	Book, Disc	0.00
16	Geest	Food	0.00
17	Medeva	Industrial	0.00
18	BICC	Electrical	0.00
19	Mandarin	Hotel, Cat	0.00
20	Stirling	Industrial	0.00
21	Carlton Comm	Leisure	0.00
22	Abbey NI	Bank, Disc	0.00
23	Peon	Electrical	0.00
24	Unigate	Food	0.00
25	Cook (DC)	Motor, Air	0.00
26	HSBC	Bank, Disc	0.00
27	Aradica	Property	0.00
28	Dairy Farm Ind	Drugs, Sps	0.00
29	CWR	Leisure	0.00
30	Macdonald	Industrial	0.00
31	Dever	Food	0.00
32	Glynwed	Drugs, Sps	0.00
33	Glynwed	Breweries	0.00
34	Thames Valley	Leisure	0.00
35	SAA	Transport	0.00
36	Kingsfisher	Drugs, Sps	0.00
37	Barr & W. A.	Leisure	0.00
38	Hickling	Textiles	0.00
39	P. O. S.	Transport	0.00
40	Chatterfield	Property	0.00
41	Stirling	Industrial	0.00
42	Farnell Elec	Electrical	0.00

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Bank of England	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	Bank of Scotland	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	Bank of Ireland	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	Bank of Wales	100	100	100	100
5	100	100	Bank of Cyprus	100	100	100	100
6	100	100	Bank of Greece	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	Bank of Spain	100	100	100	100
8	100	100	Bank of Portugal	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	Bank of France	100	100	100	100
10	100	100	Bank of Italy	100	100	100	100

BREWERIES

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	Beck's	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	Heineken	100	100	100	100
5	100	100	Kaiser Brewery	100	100	100	100
6	100	100	Miller	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	Orkla	100	100	100	100
8	100	100	Reinhold	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	St. Pauli	100	100	100	100
10	100	100	Thorn	100	100	100	100

BUILDING, ROADS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
1	100	100	Amey	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	Balfour Beatty	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	Bechtel	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	Bechtel	100	100	100	100
5	100	100	Bechtel	100	100	100	100
6	100	100	Bechtel	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	Bechtel	100	100	100	100
8	100	100	Bechtel	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	Bechtel	100	100	100	100
10	100	100	Bechtel	100	100	100	100

Sparse support for shares

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 24. Dealings end on Friday, September 2. Settlement day September 14. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
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1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
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Portfolio

PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND
£2.000
Claims required by +25 points
Claimants should ring 0254-43272

No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	BP Petroleum	Oil, Gas	0.00
2	Marshall	Breweries	0.00
3	Peon	Electrical	0.00
4	Ordnance	Industrial	0.00
5	Thames TV	Leisure	0.00
6	Parsons	Engineering	0.00
7	Storhouse	Drugs, Sps	0.00
8	Bridgeport	Industrial	0.00
9	Thames Valley	Leisure	0.00
10	MTM	Chemicals	0.00
11	Wool	Textiles	0.00
12	Prudential	Bank, Disc	0.00
13	Boddington	Breweries	0.00
14	Amberley	Bank, Disc	0.00
15	Ladbrokes	Book, Disc	0.00
16	Geest	Food	0.00
17	Medeva	Industrial	0.00
18	BICC	Electrical	0.00
19	Mandarin	Hotel, Cat	0.00
20	Stirling	Industrial	0.00
21	Carlton Comm	Leisure	0.00
22	Abbey NI	Bank, Disc	0.00
23	Peon	Electrical	0.00
24	Unigate	Food	0.00
25	Cook (DC)	Motor, Air	0.00
26	HSBC	Bank, Disc	0.00
27	Aradica	Property	0.00
28	Dairy Farm Ind	Drugs, Sps	0.00
29	CWR	Leisure	0.00
30	Macdonald	Industrial	0.00
31	Dever	Food	0.00
32	Glynwed	Drugs, Sps	0.00
33	Glynwed	Breweries	0.00
34	Thames Valley	Leisure	0.00
35	SAA	Transport	0.00
36	Kingsfisher	Drugs, Sps	0.00
37	Barr & W. A.	Leisure	0.00
38	Hickling	Textiles	0.00
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5	100	100	Bank of Cyprus	100	100	100	100
6	100	100	Bank of Greece	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	Bank of Spain	100	100	100	100
8	100	100	Bank of Portugal	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	Bank of France	100	100	100	100
10	100	100	Bank of Italy	100	100	100	100

BREWERIES

20	100	100	Adnams	100	100	100	100
21	100	100	Beck's	100	100	100	100
22	100	100	Carlsberg	100	100	100	100
23	100	100	Heineken	100	100	100	100
24	100	100	Kaiser Brewery	100	100	100	100
25	100	100	Miller	100	100	100	100
26	100	100	Samuel Adams	100	100	100	100
27	100	100	Stout	100	100	100	100
28	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
29	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
30	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
31	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
32	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
33	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
34	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
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51	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
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54	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
55	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
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74	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
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76	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
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82	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
83	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
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96	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
97	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
98	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
99	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100
100	100	100	Wheat	100	100	100	100

BEERS & LAGERS

From mergers with foreign competitors to running restaurants and making ice cream, brewers have looked for profit beyond their traditional markets

The beerage finds strength in diversity

The ground-breaking 1989 enquiry into the beer industry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the body implementing the government's competition policy, was charged with watering down the power of the so-called "beerage", the tight group of companies that dominates brewing.

Brewing as a business consumes about 2 per cent of Britain's gross domestic product, and sales probably amount to more than £9 billion a year. Many companies can trace their history back centuries — Whitbread, one of the best-established, this year celebrates 250 years in the business.

The dominance of the beerage, many of whose companies are family controlled despite their stock market quotes, has proved difficult to weaken, despite the enormous changes in drinking tastes in recent years. Even the mass popularity of lager, which now accounts for more than half the pints pulled or taken home in cans each year, has made little difference. Although, as a foreign product, lager might have been thought to have weakened the power of the brewers, most of them merely entered into lucrative deals

with the big lager-makers, Continental and more recently Australian or Canadian, and made those companies' products in their own breweries around Britain.

One such deal was the merger of the brewing interests of Allied-Lyons with the Danish Carlsberg business that was welcomed by both companies, in a phrase that deliberately echoed Carlsberg's successful catch phrase, as "probably the best merger in the world". The deal found less favour with the competition authorities and prompted a full enquiry by the commission earlier this year.

The commission's report, which contained evidence from both participants in the merger and the third parties that would be affected by it, showed that the dominance of the big brewers has continued unabated. The commission identified six of what it called national brewers. These are defined as companies whose business extends across Britain even if they are associated with one particular region and which own significant

estates of tied pubs to which they sell their product. They are Allied-Lyons, Bass, Courage/Grand Metropolitan, Scottish & Newcastle and Whitbread, the aristocrat of the sector.

The commission also took into consideration brewers that did not own pubs, the two most significant being Carlsberg and Guinness. The latter, still closely identified in most people's minds with the eponymous stout, has been a stock market success story, particularly since the court case that made the company rather than its product a household name.

The growth has had little to do with sales of beer within the British Isles, although Guinness has captured a significant chunk of the take-home market through two new products, canned draught stout and bitter. Guinness has instead forged ahead with a number of joint ventures and purchases of overseas interests, including Cruzcampo, the Spanish brewer bought for £500 million, and a strategic cross-shareholding with

ROUND FIGURES

Estimated share of beer production by major brewers in 1991 (per cent) including imports, excluding exports

Company	Total	Ale*	Lager
Allied Carlsberg	12	13	13
Bass	4	0	8
Courage/Grand Met	16	12	21
Scottish & Newcastle	22	20	24
Whitbread	21	20	22
S&N	11	13	9
Others	18	23	12

* Includes stout
Source: Allied Carlsberg estimates and major brewers

LVMH, the French luxury goods maker. The commission found that the biggest brewer by volume, by the number of pints pulled, of both ale and lager, was Bass, with 22 per cent of the market in 1991.

Bass realised early that there was more to the business world than producing beer.

The company is now the world's biggest hotelier after buying Holiday Inns in 1989, although the wisdom of that purchase, so soon before the Gulf war sent world tourism into a tailspin, has yet to be proved to the City's satisfaction. Bass's brewing pre-eminence, however, has been confirmed by its ownership of Carling Black Label, Britain's best-selling lager brand.

Running just behind Bass, is a 21 per cent market share, is one of the two big consolidations that have taken place since the 1989 commission report, the merged GrandMet/Courage operation. This deal went through only after extensive negotiations with the commission, requiring yet another industry report, and saw GrandMet, a drinks and food combine of truly global scope, transfer its brewing operations to Courage, the British arm of Posters, the Australian brewer.

In return, the two put their joint

pub estate into a second company, Intreprenure, which aimed to encourage young, energetic landlords into the business. GrandMet is now focusing more on its international brands, which include Green Giant vegetables, Smirnoff vodka and Häagen-Dazs ice cream.

The Allied-Carlsberg link that sparked this year's report would have a 16 per cent share of the beer and lager market if, as seems likely, it goes through as modified by the commission. Allied-Lyons is another big force in the world drinks market. The Lyons part of its name comes from the old Joe Lyons coffee shop business bought in 1978, but the group's main strength lies in brands such as Ballantine's and Teacher's whiskies and Beefeater gin.

Whitbread, which has a 12 per cent market share, has close links with the Dutch giant Heineken, whose product it brews in this country. Whitbread, more than most brewing companies, has stuck to its core business of beer,

although it has moved significantly into the restaurant trade.

The last big player is Scottish & Newcastle, just behind Whitbread with 11 per cent, and home to McEwan's lager and Newcastle Brown Ale. S&N wisely booked out of the hotels business just as Bass was booking in, selling the Thistle Hotels chain for £645 million. The group, Scotland's biggest commercial and industrial company, took a chance by putting the money into Center Parcs, a Dutch-owned holiday camp chain at the time, that has become a runaway success against all expectations.

The pattern to be seen from the big brewers' experiences is clear. Their secure positions in one of Britain's most stable markets have given many the strength to diversify. At the same time, a number of smaller regional brewers, such as Boddingtons and Greenalls in the north-west and Devenish in the south, have pulled out of brewing entirely, concentrating on their estates of pubs and taking their supplies of beer from the nationals. This has only served to make the position of the big guns in the industry even more secure.

MARTIN WALLER

A thousand ways to say cheers

Lager may have just over half the market but there is still a huge range of beer, Derek Harris reports

Until last year, it looked as if Britons would continue drinking more and more lager to the detriment of the ales and stouts which have been the mainstay of thirsty natives over centuries.

In 1960, lager was still a foreign tipple making its way from the Continent and accounting for less than 1 per cent of the overall beer market. It was seen as a woman's drink in that era of lager and lime. Then, as the growing number of package holidays helped to broaden the British drinker's taste horizons, lager went on draught and it was increasingly regarded as more of a man's drink.

Lager developed in Germany and Czechoslovakia in the 1840s because ice from the mountains made the necessary low-temperature brewing possible. It was about the same time that the brewers of Burton-on-Trent were producing the first of their fine quality bitters, bringing the eclipse of the dark porter style of beer which, in addition to its longer keeping qualities, had been the first to make large scale production possible.

Lager became a practical proposition in Britain only after refrigeration techniques emerged in the late 1800s. Wales and Scotland both had lager breweries by the end of that century. The Scots have continued to be especially fond of lager-style beer.

While today 90 per cent of the world's beer consumption is of lager, it took until 1989 for the lager revolution to make its biggest breakthrough in the United Kingdom. That year, lager accounted for 50.3 per cent of all beer drunk in the UK, while ale and stout for the first time dipped just below the halfway mark.

In 1990, lager seemed to be keeping up its steady advance, reaching 51.4 per cent market share by the year end. Last year, however, lager slipped to a 51 per cent market share.

Lager has its strongholds — in the South-East probably more than 60 per cent of beer drunk is lager and in Scotland

the proportion is at least the same if not greater; lager makes a good chaser for a dram of whisky.

Other areas, however, are less keen. In the North of England drinkers are still fond of their bitter and in the West Midlands drinkers frequently call for a pint of their favourite mild beer.

What contributed to reversing the trend last year was that cask-conditioned ale, beloved of the buffs keen on real ale, had recovered market share to the tune of more than 1 per cent to 15.2 per cent.

Big brewers had brought in more cask-conditioned beer, sometimes reviving old regional names in the process.

Britons still consume more than 29 million pints every day

Additionally, the products of regional and smaller brewers entered more pubs as "guest" beers under new rules after the monopolies enquiry into the beer industry.

Bass, Britain's biggest brewer, whose portfolio of beers includes the leading lager brands of Carling Black Label and Tennants, has a notable ales range that includes draught Bass, Stines, Toby and Worthington.

Allied Lyons, whose lager brands include 4000 and Skol, has among its cask ales Tedeja, which is the UK's best-selling bitter, as well as Ind Coope Burton ale and regional brands such as Benskins and Angels.

Courage, while expanding its brewing interests, is probably best known for the "amber nectar" which its parent, Australia-based Foster's, has so successfully promoted as a leading lager. However, Courage also numbers Directors,

John Smith's and Websters among its ales.

Whitbread, with Heineken and Stella Arnois leading its lager brands, acquired the Manchester-based Boddington brewery and ale range to give Whitbread its fastest-growing brand. Whitbread has especially fostered regional cask-conditioned ales, among them Flowers, Wethered's, Bentleys, Higgses, Fremains, Pompey Royal and Castle Eden.

Among regional brews which have become familiar to a wider drinking audience are Burton-on-Trent's Marston's, Yorkshire's Samuel Smith, Suffolk's Greene King and Adams, Wiltshire's Westwold and Andover, London's Fuller Smith & Turner and Young's Brewery, Kent's Shepherd Neame, Bedfordshire's Charles Wells and Oxfordshire's Hook Norton.

Ruddies, brewed at Oakham in Leicestershire, is another regional beer which has become known nationally, now acquired by Grolsch, the Dutch lager brewer.

Last year's figures also reflected the fact that technology was playing a role in boosting ale sales in the take-home market, which accounts for just over a fifth of all beer sales. An injection of nitrogen as a can of beer is opened produces a drink with a creamy head that looks and is said to taste like a draught beer.

An increasing number of brands is going the draught-in-a-can route including Guinness, Whitbread's Boddington bitter and Murphy's stout, Courage's Directors and Bass.

The main effect of the recession, which has weakened consumer spending power, seems to have been to cut beer consumption overall, although canned beer sales, largely through the supermarkets and off-licence chains for home drinking, continued to show a market share, last year topping 20 per cent share of all beer sales.

Canned beer usually costs substantially less than buying in the pub so drinkers beset by



Finishing touch: a cask being filled at Young's brewery in south-west London

hard times are perhaps more frequently inclined to forgo all the extras a pub offers, from a friendly meeting place to a game of darts.

Beer sales were down by 3.5 per cent last year and on trends so far a further 3 per cent reduction can be expected this year. The British beer market is about 10 per cent smaller this decade than at the start of the 1980s. Yet, Britons

still consume more than 29 million pints a day, ranging over 1,000 or more different brews.

These emerge from tiny breweries at a single pub — about 90 pubs now brew their own beer — as well as vast state-of-the-art production centres.

Some breweries are magnificent structures, like those built at the height of the Victorian era such as the

brewery of Harvey & Sons in Lewes, East Sussex, and that of the Hook Norton Brewery Company on the edge of the Cotswolds.

The number of key breweries has shrunk over time but there are still 99 main breweries turning out ales and lagers, plus another 95 small wholesale production units which have been established in the past 20 years.

Mine's a pint of raspberry

Beer and lager drinkers are becoming more sophisticated. Once it was chic to drink wine. Now the wide range of brands, including imports, present an aroma as well as a taste to tempt the aficionados.

Martin Kemp claims to sell the widest range of beers and lagers in the world at his shop in Pifford Road, on the northern fringe of the City of London. He stocks 500 different brands, and can even rustle up 30 traditional draught beers for parties.

He says: "I sell all the premium English bitters and a wide range of Belgian beers such as Chimay, which is made by Trappist monks. People are becoming more aware of Belgian beers because they are going to the Continent and seeing them on sale there."

While British beers have a strength of 3.2 per cent, Mr Kemp can offer stronger brands, ranging up to 9.5 per cent alcohol. He says: "The stronger beers have plenty of flavour and people tend to sip it rather than swill it down. We sell it with special glasses that trap the aroma. Customers talk about Belgian beers in the same way that wine drinkers talk about vintage wines."

Mr Kemp has also found that there is a market for fruit beers, with the traditional raspberry and cherry brands now being joined by blackcurrant, peach and banana. He says: "I have found that there is a market for fruit beers, with the traditional raspberry and cherry brands now being joined by blackcurrant, peach and banana."

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He realised that setting up in competition across the narrow street was a gamble but he says: "I tried to give an extra service by lending glasses for parties, offering sale or return pay for quality."

Retailers are taking heart from the fact that own-brand labels in the supermarkets meet a greater resistance on the beer shelves than on the food counter, although own brands have the benefit of being cheaper.

Sainsbury's says that it has found that customers often like a beer from a particular region and agrees that the switch from branded products "has taken a little longer" than on food lines.

However, the Sainsbury spokeswoman adds: "Our own brands are selling reasonably well because they have a price advantage. They are holding their own."

RODNEY HOBSON

Raise your glasses to the independents

They have resisted the onslaught of keg, held out against mergers with the giants and shown the financial acumen to form a potent brew

The structure of Britain's independent brewing industry is as complex as the flavour of many of the fine bitters it produces and has resulted in a diverse and dynamic sector well placed to take advantage of the new opportunities created by legislation.

Not that the independents have accepted changes without protest. They have vigorously condemned some of the changes ordered by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. People such as Robert Neame, the chairman of Shepherd Neame, an independent Kent brewer, have called it "the biggest miscarriage of justice ever carried out by the commission".

Mr Neame says the provisions could damage the fabric of many rural communities, by forcing brewers to withdraw from some areas without taking fully into account the social consequences in rural areas.

The independents do not deny that the legislation has caused them problems, but financial foundations laid down for many of them by

prudent — critics would say parsimonious — forebears means most are debt-free. They are also sitting on modern brewing plant and a network of high-quality tied houses.

In most cases, they have also held to the strategy that brewing is about beer, and they have capitalised on their traditional product ranges, while introducing products such as low alcohol beers and premium, high-strength lagers.

Many in the independent brewing trade acknowledge that they owe much of their success to the rise of Camra, the beer drinkers' consumer organisation, which halted the spread of nationally promoted keg beers and focused attention on the flavour and value of regionally brewed cask-conditioned beers, the mainstay of the independent brewing industry.

In many ways, the beer that launched Camra 21 years ago, and the brewer that produces

it, typify all that is best about the independent brewing sector. A group of drinkers was sitting in a St Albans pub quaffing Mc-Mullens AK bitter and wondering about whether their favourite beer would remain on the market under the onslaught of keg beer when they decided to form the organisation.

The company was founded in 1827 by Peter McMullen, a cooper, from his garden shed in what is now Railway Street, Hertford, and he sold his beer to pubs in the area. Within three years he had built a brewery nearby and in 1836 he bought his first pub, the Greyhound in Bengon, which is still owned by McMullens.

In 1860, Peter McMullen retired and passed control of the business on to two of his five sons — he also had four daughters — who four years later started the rapid expansion of the brewery by buying two breweries in nearby Ware, as well as buying as

Beer should be godly, having seen a Sabbath in the fermenter

nearby Ware, as well as buying as

nearby Ware, as well as buying as

century there were almost 40 brewers in Hertfordshire. McMullens is the only full-sized brewery left in the county. David McMullen, who with his brother, Ian, is joint managing director of the brewery, says that the reason for the company's survival and present strength is that by being independently owned, largely by that family, it has been able to take a long-term view. Investments must have a life of more than 30 years if they are to be worthwhile, and pay-back periods can be as long as is necessary to do the job properly.

Such policies have also enabled companies such as McMullens to take advantage of recessionary periods rather than be forced into taking panic measures. The modern brewery extension at Hertford and the highly automated bottling plant were built and paid for in the early 1980s when the slump enabled the company to negotiate fav-

ourable prices for plant and construction work.

Although its brewhouse is among the most modern in the country, the operation is still fully "hands-on" and under the complete control of Tony Skipper, the head brewer.

McMullens insists that its beers should be fully fermented, resting in the oak fermenting casks at least a week. Mr Skipper says: "McMullens AK is made to the old rule that all beer should be godly, having seen at least one Sabbath in the fermenter vessel."

Most of the independents follow a broadly similar philosophy and, like McMullens, also play a big part in the fabric of the local community, as well as providing local employment.

Daniel Thwaites, founded in Blackburn in 1807, as well as producing some of the North-West's best beers, is well known in the North for its scholarship fund, which enables young people from the area to travel to other parts of the world.

DAVID YOUNG



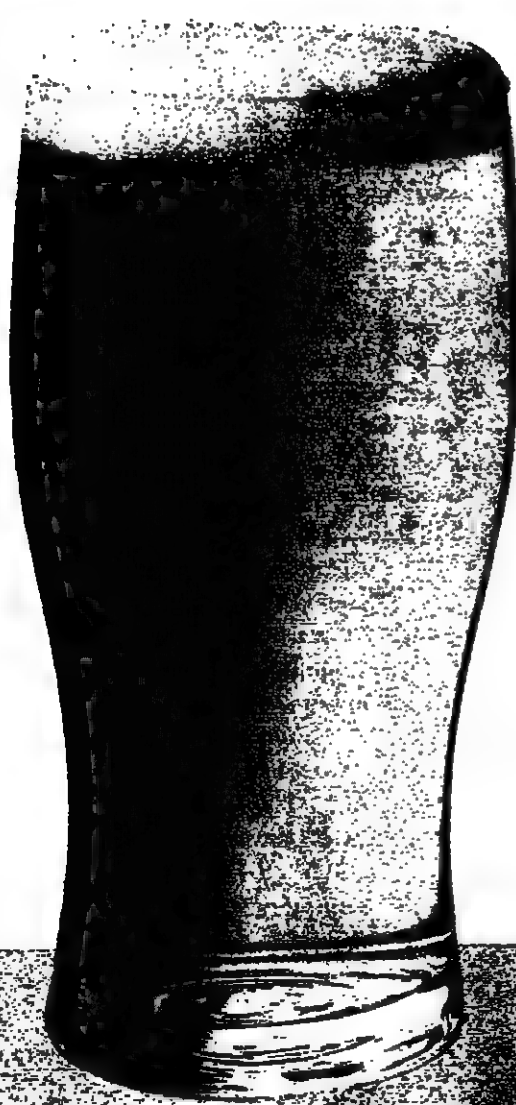
Regular tastings at the McMullen brewery in Hertford ensure the cask-conditioned beer is consistently good

Must be the beer talking.



LEWIS & CLARK
Pils

FIRST PRIZE CLASS III
LAGER - SMALL PACK



GREENALLS

CHAMPION DRAUGHT
BREWERY CONDITIONED BEER



SKOL
SPECIAL
PREMIUM LAGER

CHAMPION CLASS II
DRAUGHT LAGER



GUINNESS
STOUT

BRITAIN'S BEST
SELLING BITTER

More winners than anyone else in the 1992 Brewing Industry International Awards. The beers we brew appear to say it all.



ALLIED BREWERIES

The traditional art of the brewer lies in the painstaking skill and science of finding and balancing the barley, hops, yeast, wort and all

In pursuit of brews that keep ahead

The perfect pint is all in the ingredients, and the search for the best crosses national borders, **Rodney Hobson reports**

Timothy Taylor is a small brewer at Keighley, West Yorkshire, but it brings him all the way from Slovenia for its number-one brew, Landlord. Charles Dent, a director of Taylor, says: "Lucky it has not been affected by the troubles in the Balkans yet. We mix Syrian hops from Slovenia with goldings from Kent and fuggles from Hereford to get the special hoppy flavour."

Landlord was the best in its class at this year's Camra festival and was runner-up as beer of the year, bringing its total to 18 awards in the past ten years. Taylor's head brewer, Alan Hey, brings Golden Promise malt from Aberdeen, Perthshire and the borders in Scotland.

Mr Dent says: "We brew the old-fashioned way, which means we can have only 1.2 per cent nitrogen in the hops. Major brewers can get away with a higher content. Malt barley is very difficult for farmers to grow. They think they have got the perfect barley then they find the nitrogen content is too high and it is rejected. The barley also needs a bold, round grain."

Water is vital to the brewing industry, which takes steps to recreate the water conditions that made Burton on Trent the centre of the brewing industry. David Waller, a director at Adnams, the Suffolk brewery, explains: "The ideal water for brewers is found at Burton. It is stiff with gypsum, calcium sulphate. We try to match that by adding brewer's salt to mimic the Burton water. The sulphate gives more flavour, as opposed to chlorides which are sweeter."

Adnams, based just south of Lowestoft, takes all its malt from local sources. Mr Waller says: "We think the East Anglian malt is best. Taking ingredients from the same source means the beers stay the same."

Brewing forms a crucial link in the agricultural life of the country. Latest figures show that breweries use 659,000 tonnes out of an estimated national malt production of 1.7 million tonnes. That pur-

chase alone means the brewers are putting about £100 million a year into agriculture.

Beer begins its life down on the farm. The basic ingredient is malted barley although other cereals can be added along with sugar to achieve sweetness or encourage fermentation.

Hops are used for their bitter flavour, and yeast is essential for the fermentation that produces alcohol. Barley is grown on over four million acres of British soil, mainly in East Anglia, southern England, the Midlands and Scotland. The Brewers' Society says it is accepted by brewers all over the world that British malting barley is of the highest quality.

Because of the need to keep down the nitrogen content, less fertiliser is used for growing the barley and farmers are paid a premium to grow the lower yielding crop that the brewers need.

Hops are grown in southeast England and Hereford and Worcester, although the market for hops is increasingly an international one, with important growing areas in Oregon, Germany, Czechoslovakia and China.

During fermentation, yeast reproduces itself several times over and the surplus, which is rich in protein and vitamins, is sent to manufacturers of sandwich spreads, health foods, yeast tablets and flavouring agents.

Hops retrieved from the copper after boiling have a high fibre content and are sent to market gardeners or the forestry industry for use as organic compost.

The malt residues left behind after mashing are known as brewers' grains. They still contain enough nourishment to be bought by farmers as feedstuff—at certain times of the year they are being fed to about a quarter of all the dairy cattle in the UK.

Adnams has built up its own farm of 500 pigs that are fed on waste yeast and barley. Waste from the pigs in turn makes fertiliser for the barley.

Mr Waller says: "The local sewage works would not be able to cope with our waste. It is not poisonous but it would take all the oxygen out of the river."



Bags of flavour: malt stocks at Wadworth's brewery in Devizes



Testing time: the beer is closely monitored through each stage



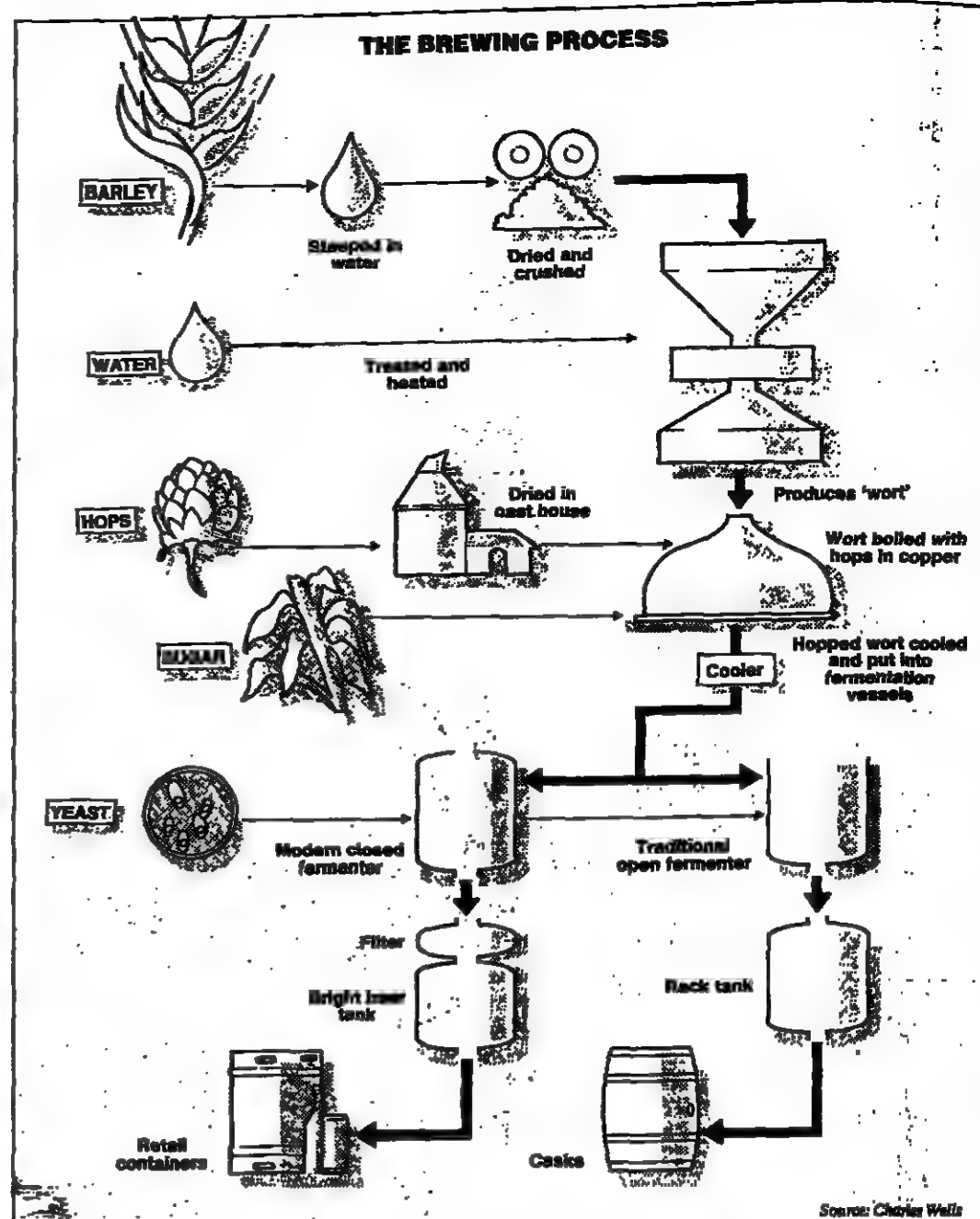
Here's mud in your eye: a group of friends enjoying a pint

On the brewery trail

SEPTEMBER has been designated Brewery Month by the Brewers' Society which has been encouraging breweries to organise special events and open days to mark the occasion. Traditionally, when brewing could take place only in the colder months, September marked the start of a new brewing round as beer ingredients were harvested.

Nearly 70 breweries are taking part and attractions vary

from a hop trail in Kent, organised by Shepherd Neame, to the chance of being a brewer for a day, courtesy of Bass in Cardiff. At Burton on Trent, Marston, Thompson & Evered will be showing off additions to its brewery where the unusual Burton Union method is employed. Normally, breweries attract about 15,000 visitors a month. This month, the target is 50,000.



Source: Charles Wells

TO MAKE beer, whether ale or lager, the main materials are high quality barley for strength, hops for flavour and yeast for fermentation. The barley is malted, which means it is soaked in water and then dried in a malt house. The malted barley is then crushed and mixed with water to create a mash. The mash is then boiled with hops in a copper to produce wort. The wort is then cooled and run into fermentation vessels where sugar can be added on which the yeast can work.

British ales and stouts are traditionally brewed in open fermenting vessels with yeast that rise to the top, forming a thick creamy crust protecting the beer from air. Many of the individual characteristics of a beer depend on the yeast so brewers carefully guard their own yeast cultures. Some strains have

MAKING BEER

been in use for 50 years or more. Lager is brewed in closed fermenting vessels, as, now, are some ales. Lager employs yeasts which work at lower temperatures and sink to the bottom of the brew. Lower temperatures mean a longer process. Beer goes to conditioning tanks where filtration and centrifuging are among the methods used to clarify it. Some beer is conditioned mainly in cask, possibly with hops added to yield more flavour, but then its palatable life is shorter. Alternatively, conditioning is completed at the brewery and the beer delivered to the customer ready for drinking in kegs, cans and bottles.

Who has the price of a pub?

Government insistence has forced radical changes in the ownership and management of public houses

Managing a pub on a straightforward commercial lease, as one would a shop, is the way of the future in the drinks trade, according to Bruce Allen. He is one of a new generation entering the pub business in the wake of the changes brought in after the last monopoly investigation of the industry.

Mr Allen has learned much about meeting people's eating and drinking needs during 38 years in catering, having started out as a hotel cook. Just over four years ago he was the first to take up a licensing deal from Innkeeper, the joint venture between Foster's Courage and Grand Metropolitan which deals with the pub estate of both companies. Like similar operators set up by other brewers needing to reduce the number of their tied, tenanted and managed pubs, Innkeeper offers 20-year standard commercial leases. This replaces the tied house system under which tenants took beer and other drinks from the brewer who paid repair and maintenance costs and let to the tenant at a subsidised rent. The new leases mean a brewer lets a pub at an open market rent, with no landlord's liability for repair costs.

Innkeeper recently signed up its 4,000th lease, in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, and continues to be bombarded with enquiries from would-be licensees. In one month earlier in the summer there were 3,779 enquiries.

Mr Allen heads the Allen Partnership, based at Haywards Heath, West Sussex, which operates 80 pubs of which 50 are on Innkeeper leases. He is chairman of the Association of Independent Licensed Multiple Retailers, created by this surge of new-style pub operators. In a year, membership has grown to 34.

He says: "If I had been sitting there with a pile of money, then putting it into pub property—in the long term and looking beyond the recession—would have been a good investment. If you haven't lots of cash, the commercial lease becomes the way for the future. It is the way for

the industry to go forward." He believes this even though some of his pubs were leased while the property market was at a peak, hence at high rents, while trading is now in a recessionary trough. He says: "This business is not for short-term players who want to be in and out in six months. You have to look to five years or more to get your basic investments right and secure proper returns from the investment."

As yet, most of the new multiple operators are small. However, the flood of pubs on the market has meant some have built up rapidly. The Nottingham-based, Centric Pub Company, for instance, has bought more than 150 pubs in the Midlands and North West from Bass, Britain's biggest brewer. Centric's aim is to build up an estate of about 400 tenanted pubs.

Enterprise Inns, based in Solihull, near Birmingham, bought 372 Midlands pubs from Bass and said it would be running them on 21-year leases. The eventual aim is an estate of 750 pubs.

It is part of a process which by November will see the brewing industry completing two of the most painful years



Richard Martin: "less choice for the consumer"

in its history. By then it will have met the demands of radical government-dictated changes following the most recent investigation of the beer industry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Brewers with more than 2,000 tenanted or managed pubs have been forced to sell or operate at arm's length about 11,000 pubs. That is almost one pub in six. The changes, which have already introduced the concept of at least one "guest" beer of a pub-ican's own choosing in a pub,

aim to increase competition and ensure a better choice for the consumer. It has not quite worked out like that. Richard Martin, chairman of the Brewers' Society, is critical of what he regards as government interference in the industry. "The industry has had to put through these changes on a tight timetable at a time when interest rates are high and beer sales down—thus discouraging private buyers—and during the worst slump in property prices anyone can remember. It seems inevitable that the end result will be fewer breweries, fewer pubs and less choice for the consumer."

Whitbread, among the big brewers, has said that not only will there be fewer pubs but there will be less choice of beers and higher prices in real terms. How many pubs have already shut is anybody's guess. Some in the pub trade believe that the Welsh borders and adjoining counties have still to see closures. This is because there are many modestly trading pubs which could run as part of a tied tenancies estate but would fail to match free market commercial criteria.

Most of the big brewers have been hit by the 2,000 limit. Bass, Allied, Lyons, Whitbread, Grand Metropolitan and Foster's Courage have been especially affected. Scottish & Newcastle Breweries were only marginally over the tied pub limit. Guinness has no pubs and nor does Danish-owned Carlsberg, which brews lager at Northampton. Brewers have been forced to free half of their pubs above the 2,000 mark. Many pubs have changed hands and at the top of the buying queue have been smaller brewers as well as the new generation of independent multiple operators. Sunderland-based Vaux group, which also brews in Sheffield, has picked up well over 100 pubs from several of the big national breweries.

Among regional brewers which have bought pubs from Bass are Daniel Tivillies of Blackburn, Lancashire; Warrington-based Burtonwood Brewery; Kent's Shepherd Neame; Nottingham's Hardy & Hanson; and Bedfordshire's Charles Wells. Hardy & Hanson paid £6.5 million for 36 pubs, while Charles Wells put up £9 million for 38 pubs. Burtonwood also took on more than 140 pubs from Allied Lyons on 25-year leases free of tie.

DEREK HARRIS

Hungry diners boost publicans' trade

Pub grub rates highly with Britons. A recent survey found that pub food, offering good value for money, was the second most popular reason for going to a pub. The most popular reason was to meet friends, Derek Harris writes. Between 1985 and 1990 pubs accounted for the largest increase in meals consumed outside the home, according to Marketpower, the leisure industry consultants. In the period, pubs saw a 12 per cent increase in catering after a 4 per cent rise in the first half of the decade.

A Brewers' Society survey on reasons for pub-going, carried out with the help of Market & Opinion Research International (MORI) last month, found that 66 per cent of pub-goers were attracted by pub food. Some 66 per cent went to pubs to meet friends. More than half those surveyed thought that there was a good choice of food in pubs. More women (70 per cent) than men (62 per cent) thought pub food was good value.

The survey is the latest evidence of the way food catering has become an important element in the pub business. A pub catering survey by Brooke Bond Foodservice and the British Institute of Innkeeping suggested that in 1990 catering accounted for about 23 per cent of pub turnover on average. For town centre pubs targeting the lunch-time trade about 17 per cent of sales was down to food, whereas rural pubs secured 30 per cent of sales from food.

14 are not permitted in bars, limiting the use made of pubs by families to those which have separate eating areas, children's rooms or beer gardens. Customers visiting pubs in the afternoon, on weekdays and Saturday are increasingly likely to have something to eat, according to a Mori survey published by the Brewers' Society last year. In 1990, 26 per cent of pub-goers said they had taken a full meal, compared with 14 per cent in 1988. Another 29 per cent reported having a snack, up from 19 per cent in 1988. About 11 per cent of afternoon pub-goers drank tea or coffee.

Value for money is the crucial ingredient in this business

That compared with 4 per cent in 1988. Longer opening hours in England and Wales have played a part in opening up the role of pubs as a place to eat but value for money appears to have been the most potent factor.

Bob Macdonald, retail trade director for Wadworth, the brewer from Devizes, Wiltshire, best known for its 6X bitter, said: "Everybody now is more conscious of what they are spending and the pub, with lower overheads than a restaurant, can offer terrific value for money on food."

Wadworth, with its 200 pubs, of which 30 are directly managed and the rest run by tenants, has aimed at creating a traditional style of country pub because it believes that this best fits with the image of its beers such as Farmer's Glory and Old Timer.

places catering experience high on the list of qualifications.

Mr Macdonald said: "One effect of the growth in pub catering is that it is attracting experienced people who might otherwise have seen themselves going into restaurant catering. That recently gave us an answer to a particular problem—two pubs in a district with insufficient beer trade for both. So one was targeted directly at picking up the beer trade while the other went to an excellent caterer who has built up the pub's food trade with a speciality in fresh fish cooked to order."

There are many other styles of pub catering. Outlets such as brasseries, and some themed bars, are closer to restaurant-style catering. Steakhouse chains have thrived on family trade, an example being the market leader Whitbread's Beefeater pub restaurants which now number nearly 300.

Whitbread's 65 Wayside Inns, traditional English pubs, follow a food and drink formula in places off the beaten track. The company's 180 Brewers Fayre outlets have a sales formula of good food with value for money.

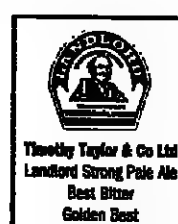
Larger pubs have extended the value-for-money approach, in some cases to providing overnight accommodation. An example is John Clarkson, a one-time chef who later was a lecturer on the leisure industry. He has taken a long lease on the Lamb Hotel at Hartley Wintney, near Fleet, in Hampshire, because he believes in the potential of the 300-year-old property. There is a pub-style bar much used by local customers which offers bar food. Entirely separate is a 46-seater restaurant where Mr Clarkson has introduced a menu of inexpensive dishes.

For the overnight stay traffic, mostly business people, there are 15 bedrooms. Again the theme is keen prices. Mr Clarkson said: "In every part of the operation value for money is in this business the crucial ingredient."

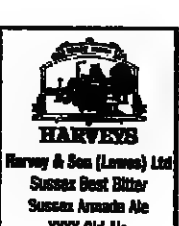
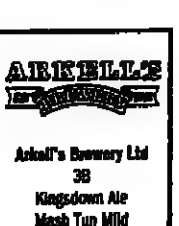
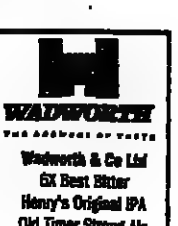
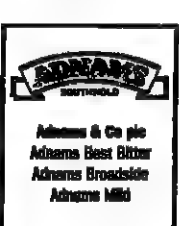
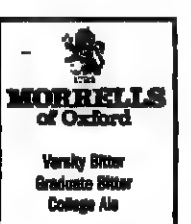
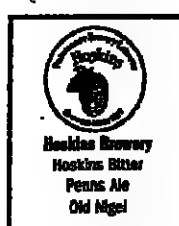
SALES OF PUBLIC HOUSES

MAIN BLOCKS SOLD BY MAJOR BREWERS: mid-1989 onwards											
Seller	Buyer	Price (£m)	Date	Comments		Seller	Buyer	Price (£m)	Date	Comments	
Allied	Marston	58	7/8	1989/90		Centric Pub Co	150	-	3/92	Midlands/North West	
	Greene King	87	15/25	Spr 90	South East	J T Davies	16	-	5/92	South East	
	Fulford	44	9/0	7/90	Oxfordshire & Bucks	Courage	18	-	5/92	North East	
	Shepherd Neame	33	5/85	7/90	Kent, Sussex	Marshall	29	12.8	4/91		
	Gales	43	9/3	7/90	Hants, Sussex	Morland	01	18.4	Sum 91	Thames area	
	Vaux	81	12/9	1990		Shepherd Neame	11	1.92	4/91	Kent mainly	
	Greenalls	40	10/0	2/92	Northern, Home Counties	Ushers	430	80.0	11/91		
	Sycamore Taverns	300	-	5/92	North, Midlands & South East	Marshall	85	-	1/91		
Bass	Hydys Anwll	10	-	1991	Bolton/Bury	GrandMet Vaux	30	-	8 In summer, 22 in autumn		
	Charles Wells	38	9/0	3/91	London & Warwickshire	Vaux	11	-	1992		
	Hardy & Hanson	36	6/5	3/91		Greene King	15	-	12/91		
	Shepherd Neame	10	2/5	2/91		Vaux	87	-	3/92		
	Hoskins	13	3/5	-		Century Inns	30	-	3/92		
	Twelvetrees	27	-	4/91		Whitbread Gales	20	-	1991	Leased on I.O.W.	
	Wiltshire Brewery	12	2/1	7/91	East London	Wadworth	17	-	3/91		
	Robinsons	19	-	1/92	North West	Hardy & Hanson	10	-	9/91		
	Enterprise Inns	372	-	9/91	West Midlands	Vaux	28	-	3/92		
	Century Inns	185	-	11/91							

Source: Edward Ebdon



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Lists of pubs are available from individual brewers.



A full colour poster of this map is available from Brewery Poster Offer, PO Box 115, Norwich NR1 3UH for £2.75 including post, packaging and VAT. Please make cheques/postal orders payable to Brewery Poster Offer. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

CRICKET

Last-wicket pair hand Essex crucial advantage

By JACK BAILEY

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Hampshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 60 runs behind Essex

WHO killed Roger Rabbit? The answer to that nobody didn't know for a long time anyway, and when a last-wicket partnership of 79 in 17 overs between two of the most fiery batters in the game — John Childs and Peter Such — finally ended, the whole balance of a desperately tight game had been altered almost beyond measure.

Coming together when Essex were still 24 runs adrift of Hampshire's 233, these two played the innings of their lives. For an hour they set out about the Hampshire attack. Such often doing so from a prone position as he evaded Marshall's famous deliveries.

The sheer unexpectedness of it all, after a day of attrition, took the crowd by storm. Hampshire were flabbergasted, Childs and Such the only calm people on the ground as they saw first Turner, the young left-arm bowler who had taken a career-best five wickets, out of the firing line and then took on all-comers.

Both passed their previous highest score, both mixed panache with hilariously inept running between the wickets. It was a reminder that cricket has its lighter side.

Childs's 43 and the undefeated 35 scored by Such were also innings of immense value. The wicket is taking spin. Turner, bowling from the river end, bowled four and had one leg-before in a spell highly significant for when Childs comes to bowl again.

A lead of 65, once beyond the wildest dreams of Essex, was like gold dust in the palm, although before bad light

	PW	L	D	St	Pts
Essex (1)	19	5	5	58	54
Kent (2)	20	2	10	54	47
Northants (10)	20	7	4	56	54
Leics (18)	20	7	7	58	54
Notts (4)	19	6	8	47	50
Gloucesters (15)	20	2	13	57	54
Derbyshire (2)	19	5	8	52	47
Warwickshire (2)	18	7	7	48	47
Glouce (13)	20	5	8	41	54
Surrey (2)	19	5	8	52	47
Hampshire (8)	20	4	11	57	60
Sussex (11)	18	4	7	58	50
Yorkshire (14)	20	4	11	52	51
Lancashire (20)	20	5	12	56	46
Worce (7)	20	3	14	49	56
Somerset (17)	18	4	12	54	48
Gloucester (12)	19	4	12	45	50
Durham (2)	20	2	10	40	50

□ Not including present round of match

□ 1991 positions in brackets

stopped play five minutes early, Hampshire had reduced this by five.

Early on, the partnership of 92 between Prichard and Lewis apart, the Essex batting had hitherto lacked an air of permanence, or even much expectation. Stephenson had already left to a beauty from Marshall which left him late as he played half forward; and Gooch, forcing Ayling with great power off his legs, had cause to wonder at Smith's brilliant head-high catch at short midwicket.

At 50 for two from 20 overs and a long way to go, Essex knew that a long hard battle lay ahead.

For 57 overs Lewis stood firm before a worthy spell from Ayling was rewarded when Aymes took off to his right and caught the ball inches from the turf.

Meanwhile, Prichard had clipped his way along to a controlled half-century and at 142 for three at Lewis's departure, Essex were back on schedule.

But Turner found a way of bowling Knight half forward. Prichard and Topley behind their legs and deceiving Garnham and Fringle as to judgment of line. Hampshire were well pleased. Then along came Childs and Such.

Brown tears into Somerset attack

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

FEW young players can have made a more explosive start to a first-class career than Alistair Brown, 22, whose hundred for Surrey against Somerset at the Oval yesterday was his third in only 13 innings. Furthermore, his centuries are three of the eight fastest made this season.

Yesterday's came from 78 balls. Against Durham, at the end of July, he needed only 71 to reach three figures, eight fewer than against Nottinghamshire on July 23. All have been made in competitive situations.

Brown, who wastes little time on reconnaissance, combined with Graham Thorpe, who completed the first double-century of his career, to give the Somerset bowling a terrible hammering as they added 211 in 34 overs for the fifth wicket. Brown hit three sixes and 14 fours in his 129, and although the last six wickets fell while 19 runs were scored, Surrey reached 557 before they were all out, van Troost hurrying the innings to a close with a spell of four wickets in 15 balls.

Mark Lawwell, Somerset's batting discovery, passed

1,000 runs in his first full season while scoring 44 as his side recovered from early reverses to reach 159 for five.

David Gower is willing to apologise to the Indian cricket authorities over a claim in his book *Gower: The Autobiography* that the Indians were warned by the umpires for tampering with the ball during the Oval Test of 1990.

Gower, who is hoping to tour India with England this winter, said: "I don't want to walk into a controversy about ball-tampering. If I've caused any offence or concern over something I have written I will happily apologise."

Essex v Hampshire

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Hampshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 60 runs behind Essex

Hampshire: First Innings 233 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Essex: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Hampshire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Essex: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Hampshire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Essex: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Hampshire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Essex: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings



Ducking the issue: Lewis, of Essex, evades a bouncer from Marshall, of Hampshire, in a remarkable day's play at Chelmsford

Robinson tortures Northamptonshire

By PETER BALL

SCARBOROUGH (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, need 212 runs to avoid the follow-on against Yorkshire

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE'S eventual week began quietly on Monday; it got rather worse yesterday as one of their former players returned to torment them after Yorkshire ground on remorselessly to pass 500.

Mark Robinson had a quiet start to his career with his native county when he returned last season, but the Yorkshire seam bowler has

been consistently effective this year. He extracted some life out of a hitherto typical Scarborough pitch, low and sluggish, to leave Northamptonshire in some disarray as he took three for 17 in 13 overs.

Northamptonshire's disarray, however, had started early as Yorkshire batted on into the afternoon. Byas reaching his first century of the season, and his third consecutive hundred on his home club ground.

He, at least, likes Scarborough. Apart from Robinson, bowlers do not, and it does not produce enthralling cricket. Only when Byas and Jarvis, whose partnership of 133 equalled Yorkshire's highest

seventh-wicket stand against Northamptonshire, were scoring at a run a minute did the crowd show signs of animation.

Northamptonshire did not help their cause, Bailey putting down a sharp chance off Byas when he had scored 61, and Penberthy, the unlucky bowler, dropping a return catch from Jarvis.

Jarvis profited to reach his highest first-class score. A maiden century was in sight when he was stranded halfway down the pitch as Byas made no movement. His 80 came off 105 balls, with 12 fours and one six.

Byas was more restrained, finally reaching his century

with his eleventh four in just under four hours. Byas fell almost immediately, checking his shot to give Capel a gentle caught-and-bowled.

Batty came and went, and the arrival of Robinson — whose fame as the worst No. 11 in cricket survived his move to Yorkshire even when his bowling reputation was being questioned — finally persuaded Hartley to launch into Cook, hitting him for three successive sixes before hoisting out attempting a fourth.

After fielding for a day and a half in a biting wind, the Northamptonshire batsmen may have been forgiven for feeling jaundiced. "If this is

what four-day cricket is going to be like, next season won't be much fun," one said, but Robinson had his moment to come and took it with relish as he replaced Hartley.

Fordham was the first to go in his second over, brilliantly picked up by Kellert diving to his right at square leg. Felton followed in his next over, picking out White at cover. When Loye unnecessarily followed a ball down the leg side to give Blakey a simple catch, Northants were in some trouble at 60 for three.

Robinson, however, finally had to rest, and Bailey, in his role as acting captain, steadied things down with the best innings of the two days.

Hick brightens a drab encounter

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WORCESTER (second day of four): Worcestershire have scored 409 for seven wickets against Warwickshire

FOR the umpteenth time in his career of contradictions, Graeme Hick yesterday strode the scene at New Road like some long-sago county amateur having a nostalgic game for his old village side. There were two teams playing, but only one man raised the standard above the ordinary.

Hick seemed destined for his 67th first-class century from the first over of the day, when two fours off Allan Donald, just the sort of bowler reputed to be no much for him, completed his fifty. Such was his mastery that the ninth double century of his career loomed until a misreading of the stumps by the over-eager Steve Rhodes ran him out for 146.

Hick batted a shade under five hours and made more than two-thirds of the runs from the bat in that time. His century was reached with a resounding hook, in front of square, off Donald, and his stay was decorated with drives and delicate late cuts.

When Hick left, this local derby side's colourful cost and reverted to September drabness. Rhodes, batting high at No. 6, made a worthy but workaday century, the second and biggest of his career, as his side gained a position from which it might bowl out Warwickshire twice on a pitch of increasingly low bounce. But the rest of the day was notable only for the sad announcement of Graham Dilley's enforced retirement.

Recently, mention of Dilley's name has invariably led to ribald comments about the treatment table. "Just think," he said yesterday, "All those physios I'm putting out of work."

But Dilley, 33, has not always been a frustration. I recall him bowling furiously fast for England in Jamaica, in 1981, and again in Australia six years later. He played 41 Tests, helped Kent win the championship in 1978 and, a decade later, was in the Worcestershire side which took the title two years in succession. His career has been ended by a serious neck injury, requiring surgery.

Barnett leads by example

By RICHARD STREETON

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 159 runs behind Derbyshire

KIM Barnett stied his customary bold approach to batting for a remorseless display of concentration yesterday as he carried his bat for the first time in his long career. Barnett made 156, spread across seven hours 19 minutes and, ably supported by the tailenders, steered Derbyshire to a lead of 164.

Nottinghamshire lost Saxeby before the close and, though the pitch remains true, they seem unlikely to have any chance of pulling this match out of the fire. Barnett hit 21 fours — eight of them in his first 39 overnight — and faced

384 balls. Saxeby can be heaved with such restraint. It was an innings which stressed the four efficiency required in the four-day game.

The day's other talking point was the topical awareness shown by the umpires, who twice inspired suspicions of ball-tampering by lengthy inspections of the ball. It transpired the first time that some loose thread needed cutting off and later they had wondered if it had gone out of shape.

Derbyshire's approach gave no hint at first of the patient accumulation to come. After Sladdin, the nightwatchman, was caught at slip, O'Gorman, Adams and Griffith all brought about their own downfall. Derbyshire were then only three runs ahead

with four wickets in hand and Barnett, who was 57, had just survived the only chance he gave. Lewis at slip was unable to hold a possible catch against Afford.

It was Krikken, Cork, Bishop and Warner, who provided Barnett with the support he needed to build the commanding lead which was finally established. Progress was dreadfully slow at times but the Nottinghamshire attack gave little away. Afford and Field-Buss wheeled away steadily and the off spinner, especially, bowled with good control.

Krikken helped to add 51 in 30 overs before he moved out to drive and lifted a chest-high catch to mid-on. Cork applied a much needed spur as tea approached and Derbyshire claimed a third batting point with three balls to spare.

Nottinghamshire took a new ball after the interval and Cork was out in the second over. He aimed a forcing, back-foot stroke and Pollard took a two-handed catch at first slip as he dived to his right. Bishop looked in no trouble as he helped to add 60 in 20 overs before he was bowled by Afford, who went on to have Warner caught at mid-on.

Athey refuses contract

THE end-of-season controversy that seems an inescapable part of the Gloucestershire cricketing scene surfaced on cue yesterday when Bill Athey refused a new two-year contract. He will be leaving the county staff later this month (Geoffrey Wheeler writes).

Athey, 34, the former England player who has been the

Mistakes assist Australia

Colombo: Australia, aided by poor Sri Lankan fielding, recovered to the comparative safety of 206 for five at the close of the fourth day of the second Test here yesterday.

The touring team is now 195 runs ahead of its hosts, who declared at their third-day total of 258 for nine.

Dean Jones benefited from three let-offs to hold the innings together with an unbeaten 48 in an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership of 57 with Greg Matthews.

Sri Lanka's chances of breaking the Australian batting were dashed by the poor wicketkeeping of Romesh Kaluwitharana, who failed to stump Jones at nought and six, as he went forward to drive the spinners, and to hold an inside edge off Allan Border on 25.

However, Border added just three to his total before Don Amarasiri trapped him leg-before. Jones's trick held when Chandika Hathurusinghe spilled a straightforward catch at second slip.

The off spinner, Muthiah Muralitharan, making his Test debut, bowled superbly in the afternoon to dismiss Tom Moody for 54 and Mark Waugh first ball as Sri Lanka captured three Australian wickets in nine balls.

BOWLS

Cove are set for all-county affair

By GORDON ALLAN

THE possibility of an all-Hampshire final in the EBA four's championship — something that has not happened since Southsea Waverley beat Southbourne in 1933 — emerged at Worthing yesterday when teams from Bournemouth and Cove, near Farnborough, qualified for this morning's semi-finals.

Both had easy wins, Bournemouth 20-11 over Cleethorpes and Cove 24-15 over Newbury. Nick Jones's Bournemouth four, with an average age of 25, outbowed Cleethorpes, whose skip, Geoff Plakitt, an international in the early Eighties, was left with too much to do by his out-of-form frontman.

Cove, skipped by Jim Mansland, scored steadily to build up a 22-9 lead and then spent the last few ends protecting it.

The semi-final pairings are Gaston, Hertfordshire, v Cove and Bournemouth v Rainworth Miners Welfare, from Nottinghamshire. Garston, skipped by John Simmons, were 9-16 down with three ends to play against Romsey, Cambridgeshire, but tied the scores 16-16 on the twentieth and took a single on the 21st.

Rainworth and Courtfield, Cumbria, were level 19-19 on the twentieth with Courtfield leading the winter before Geoff Mee, the Rainworth skip, trailed the jack to the edge of the ditch with the last bowl of the game and, on a measure, took the shot.

Bill Hobart's team from Sleaford Road, Boston, in Lincolnshire, who had looked more than useful on Monday, lost heavily to Newbury in the third round, winning only two ends after leading 9-7 on the eighth.

RESULTS

Weales go forward together

ROBERT Weale, who played for Wales in the recent Woolwich world championships at Worthing, qualified for the quarter-finals of the Welsh national pairs and four's championships at British Steel (Timplate, Ebbw Vale yesterday (David Rhys Jones writes).

A slow start against Ian and Geoff Mellor, of Skewen, saw Weale and his brother, David, trailing 6-0 after five ends, but they dropped only four more on their way to a 20-12 victory.

The two Weales, of Prestegise, take on the Welsh junior internationals, Brenin Powell and Barrie Evans, of Pontrydyfan, in tomorrow's quarter-finals, while the four Weale version — the brothers, Robert, David, Stuart and Brian — meet Clive Taylor's Old Landorians in the quarter-final of the four's.

A strong challenge from a talented Tonyandy rink but they were never seriously troubled after scoring a four on the eighth end and a five on the thirteenth.

Results, page 29

BRIDGE

Britain take early lead

Salsomaggiore, Italy: Britain started well against Holland in their quarter-final knockout match in the women's series at the world team Olympiad yesterday (Albert Dormer writes). After 32 boards of the 54-board match, due to end late last night, Britain led by 45 international match points to 22. Other scores were Germany 58, Denmark 4; France 49, China 36; Austria 59, Sweden 16. Britain finished second in their group.

In the Open series, Britain failed to qualify for Wednesday's quarter-finals, finishing eighth in their 29-game group, after losing 14-16 to lowly Guadeloupe. This was the pattern of the tournament, doing well against strong teams and poorly against lower-ranked sides.

YORKSHIRE SCOREBOARDS

Yorkshire v Northants

SCARBOROUGH (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, need 212 runs to avoid the follow-on against Yorkshire

Yorkshire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Northants: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Yorkshire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Northants: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Yorkshire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Northants: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Yorkshire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Northants: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Yorkshire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Northants: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Gloucestershire v Leics

BRISTOL (first day of four): Gloucestershire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, need 212 runs to avoid the follow-on against Leicestershire

Gloucestershire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Leics: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Gloucestershire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Leics: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Gloucestershire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Leics: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Gloucestershire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Leics: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Gloucestershire: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Leics: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Sri Lanka v Australia

COLOMBO (fourth day of five): Australia, with the second-innings wicket in hand, are 195 runs ahead of Sri Lanka

Australia: First Innings 258 (D M Jones 4 for 28)

Sri Lanka: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Australia: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Sri Lanka: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Australia: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Sri Lanka: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Australia: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Sri Lanka: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

Australia: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Sri Lanka: First Innings 176 (P M Such 4 for 28)

Second Innings

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FOOTBALL



WOMEN p5
Move over
Roseanne,
here comes
Miriam

LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2 1992

HOMES p7
Love your
house but not
the site? Tow
it away



Pictures from Somalia and the former Yugoslavia may make people want to go and help, but what is life like for those who do? Two aid workers describe a typical day at the front line

Between the guns and the gratitude

Leesa Hellings, 30, is a relief worker for Save The Children and has spent the last five months in Mogadishu, Somalia. She is a qualified RGN (registered general nurse) and works with her boyfriend, also a qualified nurse, in the Save the Children emergency feeding centres near the city

I wake up at seven o'clock every morning in the compound that I share with eight other Save the Children relief workers. It is about ten minutes away from the international airport and there are two houses and an office. It is quite luxurious compared to the old house we moved out of last month. That had been bombed several times and the walls were crumbling.

One evening while I was sitting reading a book a bullet came through the window and only just missed me. Outside in the marketplace there were always arguments, fights and people getting killed and we couldn't leave the building without an escort.

Now we live further away from the centre. It is safer. You still can't walk in the streets and we have to have an armed driver but we can go to the store near the back of the compound and we have four armed guards surrounding the buildings paid for by the charity.

When I went for my interview for the job they told me about the working conditions but it doesn't sink in until you get here. I'd never seen such large guns and everyone is armed. The first time I heard shots I jumped out of my skin but now I hardly notice the continuous gunfire. We call it Mogadishu music.

For breakfast I will have a cup of coffee and some toast if the generator is working or some grapefruit or mango, the only plentiful food here. We all dress in typical expat wear: T-shirts, baggy trousers, flip-flops or trainers. You can't buy clothes here so my kit is quite unsavoury now. Then everyone goes down to the office and works out where they are going, which driver and guide they will take and

what provisions they will need.

I am the leader of the feeding team. I have to go to all our 18 feeding centres. We have three types of centre. The therapeutic feeding centres, where children are less than 70 per cent of the correct weight for their height, is the most distressing and requires most time. They are so thin they cannot walk and need feeding four times a day.

The supplementary feeding centres where the children are less than 80 per cent of their correct weight are only slightly more cheerful places. Bones are sticking out everywhere and they are still in great danger. Those that survive in these centres tend to move into our third centres which are health clinics for less severe cases.

It was a real shock the first time I saw the centres. I had worked in children's wards in Britain and Romania but I had never been in a famine before. The situation rapidly deteriorated and children kept dying. I never got used to the sight but I accept it now and the situation is stabilising as more aid agencies manage to get into the countryside and stem the tide of refugees coming here.

My centres are all in Mogadishu or within a 20-minute drive. I do little hands-on nursing. Most of that is done by the Somali supervisors and local staff. They came from the Ministry of Health. They tell me what their problems are and I will see the worst cases and try to make a diagnosis. I speak very little Somali but they are trying to learn English and are wonderful. They have thousands of children to look after and tons of food to distribute but they never complain.

They are also very honest. When food gets looted it is at the depots. Rebels come in the afternoon and gun a hole in the wall. We never know who they are but we manage to keep most of it and we send it out every three days. We are lucky because our supplies are Unimix, a mixture of maize and beans, and dried milk which are not highly prized. Two bowls of Unimix are given to children every day and this provides them with 900 calories, enough to survive.

In the therapeutic centres our supplies, space and time are limited and it has been decided that we can only give aid to children under five.



"It doesn't sink in until you get here": a baby on a drip feed at a clinic in north Mogadishu

It is a terrible decision to have to make and I usually leave it up to the supervisors to decide who they let in. Often a ten-year-old child will be in just as dire need.

My other role is to teach the Somali workers how to diagnose simple illnesses and naso-gastric feeding — putting a tube via their nose into their stomach — because many are too weak to drink.

We all come home at one o'clock to do the paperwork and have a meal. Our cook makes us spaghetti and risotto as well as Somali dishes, goat being our least favourite. We have very little fresh food — only a few tomatoes and lemons — and the rest is tinned supplies. When I came out here I was violently ill and had to go back to Nairobi. I returned but had vomiting and diarrhoea for three months and I have lost a lot of weight.

Disease is everywhere but it is hard to distinguish from malnutrition and children often die from a combination. Last month we had a lot of flies and rain and the death rate shot up. Most of the workers catch something. One nurse got hepatitis and we had to give her an IV infusion to save her.

In the afternoon our work is more difficult. This is when the fighting and looting takes place in

the surrounding countryside so we have to confine our visits to nearby centres. Last week two of my centres were in areas of fighting and were pillaged. They took everything from cups to shelter-homes and medicines. You can't go crying to someone saying my centre has just been wrecked because there is no one to run to — there are no rules and no government. When the rebels came the children fled. The nurses tried to save the medicines but were told they would be shot if they did.

I have to be home before it starts getting dark. We get back by about five o'clock. We can't go out, although occasionally we will take a guard and armoured car and go for a drink at another aid worker's house. Usually we will sit down and talk about any difficulties or do the paperwork or read. Boredom is a big problem. We get Fridays off but we usually end up working.

We hardly ever talk about politics. My driver discusses it though and tries to keep me abreast of all the different factions. There are so many no one knows who is fighting who. Once a month we phone home from a satellite telephone in our compound which is handy because my mother has usually been reading the newspapers and gets quite frightened.

I only have two weeks of my contract left and then I will go home to Bolton. The job is incredibly stressful and I will need at least a month to recuperate before deciding if I want to come back.

The depression is the worst thing you have to fight. The worst I learnt my two centres had been ransacked I felt I was achieving nothing and children were dying all around me. It is hard watching a child die. But some weeks when I am discharging children I feel elated. They all clap and shake your hands. They are so immensely grateful and everyone is happy.

We are in bed by nine o'clock. The beds are made out of cardboard but quite comfortable and I am usually so exhausted that I do not remember my dreams and nightmares.

Interview by Alice Thomson

TOMORROW

Is television replacing live theatre as the main forum for playwrights?

Keeping the blood flowing

Annie Sewell, 38, is a nurse working for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Zagreb, in the former Yugoslavia. She comes from Wiltshire and lives in London, and when not working overseas works with accident and emergency trauma patients and in intensive care at King's College Hospital. She is a veteran of a number of wars

Yesterday I had to get up at 4.30am to go to the medical warehouse to pack tetanus vaccines. They have to be kept cool so have to be done at the last minute. I also had to load baby powder, blood transfusion kits and intravenous fluids. We have 20-tonne lorries which is a hell of a lot of individual medicines and I have to make sure the boxes are all labelled correctly. I have to help load, extremely carefully, and it's very hot — 35C. I have muscles like Popeye through lugging things backwards and forwards.

We were going south to Banja Luka and were supposed to leave at 6am but were told there was no police clearance for us, there was some muddle with another convoy, so we didn't set off until quarter to seven. There were three huge Red Cross Land-Rovers and me driving my little Landcruiser. You have to be ready to change your plans. Yesterday a Muslim woman who had just given birth had to be evacuated so I drove her and her two-day-old son, Mustafa, back to Zagreb. Her husband worked there and they were very worried about her. They have very strict guidelines about people who may move out of Bosnia but a "family reunion" can be a reason to get someone through. The baby behaved very well and at the checkpoints the UN guards, Jordanians and Nepalese, had a good look and all cooed over him.

Our first stop was Bosanska Gradiska where they have had an influx of wounded. We take them cigarettes because they cost £2 for a small packet and are difficult to get. Because it is an occupied place they are not giving them any electricity or water so there has been an

increase in diarrhoea. The water they have is stagnant and they asked if I can get them chlorine. We did a survey of how many wounded they have, if rocket attacks had damaged the infrastructure and they told us of other things they would like. They are now looking after people in the prison camps so there are extra demands.

This is a First World country where they do the same surgery as we do at home. They have plenty of university-trained doctors and nurses. What they need are medicines and they are getting more and more desperate because they are now doing war surgery on top of what they usually do. They are having to recycle things which they would normally throw away which is more difficult for medical people used to the sort of standards we have in Britain.

At Banja Luka the hospital haematologists told me they needed blood and although people are willing to give it, they had no bags to keep it in and no serum to test which group. A B.C. and so on, the blood belongs to, so I organised that for them.

My first mission was in 1982 on the Thai-Cambodian border, then I was in Ethiopia and Su-

dan and in Kabul. As well as a general nurse I'm also a midwife so I'm quite useful. I have been lent to the ICRC by the British Red Cross on a five-month contract until December. They wired us from Geneva originally for a field nurse but then they realised they were desperate for someone to take charge out here so mine is an administrative post really.

I have been here seven weeks now and am always terribly busy. A short day would be 12 hours. In Afghanistan where I lived in a bunker, I learned to live on much less sleep than I used to think was possible, but here it is like living in London. We can go shopping in the supermarket or to buy clothes, there are no shortages.

We live in modern apartments and we can go out for a meal although usually I am so tired at the end of the day and it is very hot, so I'm not hungry.

I am not in any danger. The ICRC has a very good security record. Generally speaking they are very very careful about making sure security is the best they can do before going in.

Interview by Heather Kirby

Happy families? No, I don't want to play

An old friend of mine, newly spliced, recently invited me to dinner in his new marital home. Ordinarily I would have said yes automatically, but this time I heard myself imposing conditions. "Is it a nice house?" I asked.

"Yes, very nice."

"And you and your new wife are really happy there?"

"Yes, we are."

"With a nice well-organised kitchen, and a big fireplace, and a patio for barbecues, and a little room suitable for Baby?"

"Yeah, sort of."

"Well, in that case the answer's no."

There was an awkward pause.

"Did you say no?"

"That's right," I said briskly.

"Not in a million years. Let's meet at Leicester Square for a pizza or something instead. Then we can eat and talk just the same, but afterwards I can come home feeling quite all right and not mysteriously depressed because your home life is so lovely. All right?"

If he was surprised by this outburst, so was I. I had no idea I felt so strongly. All I knew was that sometimes, after a delightful evening spent with perfect hosts in a full, groaning family house, a single person spends the next few days dumb with misery, hating

everybody, and bursting into unexpected tears during heart-warming re-runs of *Flower*. I confessed my re-runs of *Flower* speech to a friend, who said she understood, and who mentioned that at least I had been assertive without being aggressive. Which made me bloody annoyed. "What's the point of that?" I yelled. Damn. Next time, I shall shout "Sod your fancy house with its bloody patio and its baby room, you make me sick you people." Because there are times when a sub-text simply won't do.

The alternative strategies to an outright No Thanks — though possibly better etiquette in the strict sense — are too wearisome to contemplate. For example, you can accept the invitation, and then half an hour before arrival phone up with a fabricated story about a last-minute mercy-dash ("I'm so sorry, but I don't deliver this jar of roilmop herrings to the Foreign Office in the next hour, we could find ourselves at war with Finland"). But is this less rude than explaining your true feelings? I think not. Worst of all, surely, is to agree to come, turn up punctually, make perfect-guest "Ooh lovely" noises at the wallpaper, and then sever your wrist quietly in their nice big kitchen while pretending to help with the puddings.

SINGLE LIFE

Lynne Truss admits that marital bliss leaves her feeling blue



Don't get me wrong. Things get better for single people every day. Oh yes. How cheerful to reflect, for example, that Sainsbury's now sells "Single Bananas" in a special bag. But we are not the norm, despite our bananas. We are seen as something akin to the rogue animals in wildlife films, the ones that are tolerated by the herd but don't fit in, and are photographed sulking hundreds of yards off, snuffling

in long white grass. When lone dolphins turn up in British harbours (clearly enjoying a walloping good time eating fresh salmon and frolicking with the boats), the British public invariably feels sorry for them, and worries about finding them a suitable mate. It is the same benevolent but mistaken instinct that makes married people invite you to their new house.

What nobody appreciates, of course, is that the poor old dolphin fields invitations all day, through his ultrasonic mindwaves. "Come to dinner, we haven't seen you in ages," he hears from a happy nuclear dolphin family five miles out to sea. "Bigger," thinks the dolphin, wishing he had remembered to switch on his answering-machine. How can he say he moved five miles (and risked having to swim with New Age poets in wet-suits) just to escape all this? Treading water for a minute, he programs his super-brain to run through the available strategies, and instantly feels doubly depressed. Pizzas in Leicester Square is not a viable option for a dolphin; and the roilmop herrings routine costs no less whatever in a marine context.

He is caught all ways actually, because he can't be assertive or aggressive, since neither is in his

nature. And he always finds *Flipper* depressing. What a bind. So in the end, he agrees to the visit, swims miles, has a marvellous time, adores the kids, applauds the bold choice of murky green throughout, gets home late, and flops out exhausted with a smile on his face. And then, for about a week later, he mopes miserably in the water, and everyone says it must be because he misses the company of other dolphins.

Perhaps it is a phase you go through, this ugly envy stuff. I hope so, certainly. I know one woman who is perfectly all right most of the time, but who bursts into tears every time she gets a wedding invitation, so that we have to rush out and have a pizza at Leicester Square, where we talk bravely about single bananas. Edna Ferber said that a delightful sensation once you cease to struggle — but is this comforting, or isn't it? The analogy isn't bad, certainly: your whole life unfolds before your eyes, and you entertain strange dreamy thoughts such as "I shall never have to wash my hair again, anyway". Meanwhile, however, you can't help wishing that those nice married people on the bank would stop chucking you lifebeats, so that you can just get on with it.

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Chocolate soldiers, fast Lerner and Shaw things

George Bernard Shaw never knowingly sanctioned any musical versions of his plays. Benny Green is bringing his own second such effort into the West End

Putting George Bernard Shaw to music is a daunting business, for the most predictable of reasons. Each time you excise a line and replace it with one of your own, each time you contrive a couplet or a musical phrase to express the thought, each action you take is inhibited by the certitude that GBS's brooding spirit is peering over your shoulder, cursing every syllable and every note.

Throughout his life Shaw was adamant on this point, insisting with every justification that his plays contained their own music and needed no further embellishment. Just possibly Mozart might have been trusted with some of the lesser plays, but his policy remained unchanged. No musical versions of his works. Why, then, have people always fallen over themselves to perform the trick?

The fault is Shaw's own. More than once he described how he wrote his dialogue as though composing an opera, with soliloquies followed by duets, trios, chorus passages and all the rest. By claiming as much, he seemed to be inviting posterity to fill in the missing melodies. But the world had to wait until death removed him from the scene and left his affairs in the hands of the Society of Authors. As it is the Society's duty to generate as much income as possible for the estate, its attitude has been very different from Shaw's. Even so, in more than 40 years since Shaw's death the attempts to musicalise his plays have been few.

Shaw's refusal to countenance any such thing is generally perceived to have had its roots in his

unfortunate experience at the hands of a Viennese operetta composer called Oscar Straus, whose dream it was to write a musical version of *Arms and the Man*. Through a misunderstanding between Shaw and his German translator, Siegfried Trebitsch, Straus was granted permission, wrote *The Chocolate Soldier* and made his fortune, much to the dismay of Shaw, who refused to accept any royalties.

In withholding permission for Straus's travesty to be filmed, Shaw said: "It has done me quite enough harm already without that climax of injury." And when in 1921 Franz Lehár requested permission to put *Pygmalion* to music, Shaw explained his refusal with: "Never again will I face the loss and disgrace the thrice accursed *Chocolate Soldier* brought upon me."

It does seem likely, however, that Shaw had begun to turn away from musical comedy as early as the 1890s, when his duties as drama critic for *The Saturday Review* exposed him to all sorts of musical film-fam week by week, and convinced him that a coherent, intelligent musical was a contradiction in terms. The most remarkable proof of this prejudice is found in his reaction to an Alfred Cellier operetta, *Dorothy*, which Shaw reviewed in *Greenwich*. By the time Shaw

saw it, *Dorothy* had run for nearly 800 performances, which inspired him to write of its hero: "The tenor, originally, I have no doubt, a fine young man, but now cherubically adipose, was evidently counting the days until death should release him from his part."

Of the leading lady he wrote that she sang "without the slightest effort and without the slightest point". As for the canine members of the cast, Shaw reserved for them his deadliest arrows: "The pack of hounds darted in at the end of the second act evidently full of the mad hope of finding something new going on and their depression, when they discovered it was *Dorothy* again, was pitiable. The S.P.C.A. should interfere. If there is no law to protect men and women from *Dorothy*, there is at least one that can be strained to protect dogs."

What is truly remarkable about all this is that the leading lady was Shaw's sister and the disenchanted tenor her husband.

Half a century on, when Shaw was beating off pretenders to the rights of *Pygmalion*, it was recollections of shows like *Dorothy* which steeled him against the most heart-rending pleas. In February 1948 an airman called Prentice wrote asking if his squadron could stage a musical version of *Pygmalion*. "I absolutely forbid any such

outrage," Shaw replied. "If *Pygmalion* is not good enough for your friends with its own verbal music, their talent must be altogether extraordinary. Let them try Mozart's *Così fan tutte* or at least Offenbach's *The Grand Duchess*."

Two months later came an identical request from the New York attorney Fanny Holtzmann, working for Gertrude Lawrence. "My dear Fanny, stop cabling crazy nonsense," Shaw replied. "What you need is a month's holiday. My decision as to *Pygmalion* is final. Let me hear no more about it. This is final."

Two years later Shaw was dead and the game was afoot. By 1951 Rodgers and Hammerstein were at work on *Pygmalion*. Soon they gave up, saying that a musical version was technically impossible. A year later Alan Lerner took up the task and before long he too was declaring the job impossible.

In 1954 he tried again. The result was *My Fair Lady*. The libretto was inspired to the point of genius, but Lerner always felt uneasy at having altered the ending. In the published edition of the musical, he appends a note regarding Shaw's insistence that Eliza ends up with Freddy Eynsford-Hill: "Shaw and heaven forgive me, I am not certain he is right."

Since *My Fair Lady* there have been a few aborted attempts at Shawian musicals, the most intriguing of which has been a Broadway assault on *Caesar and Cleopatra* with the alarming title, *Har First Roman*. In 1983 I was involved with the composer Denis King in a reasonably successful adaptation of *The Admirable Bashville*. And



From *Pygmalion*: Julie Andrews as Eliza and Rex Harrison as Professor Higgins in *My Fair Lady*

now King and I await the fate of *Valentine's Day*, a musical version of *You Never Can Tell*. In eight years from now, Shaw's copyrights move into the public domain, and anybody can do what

they wish with the works. I was delighted to discover, while researching this article, that the Globe, where *Valentine's Day* is being presented, is only a few doors away from the Lyric Theatre — which

was built on the proceeds of *Dorothy*. You never can tell.

● *Valentine's Day* is in preview from Monday at the Globe Theatre (071-437 3667). Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1, and opens on September 17.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Hard truth behind nuclear soft-sell

Part of the trouble with nuclear power is that too many of its proponents have told lies about it. For a long time journalists, including me, took the nuclear industry's statements at face value.

We were seduced by the prospect of energy in endless supply at a time when it was easy to convince the populace that oil was not only finite but also in the hands of foreigners, mostly Arabs, with a startling propensity to put up the price in order to build another golden pleasure dome. Thus did unstated racism join economics and "cleanliness" in the nuclear lobby's battery of seduction techniques.

The disastrous accidents at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl, and their attendant horrors, have helped to introduce balance. In liberal democracies nuclear promises are now at least greeted with scepticism and a degree of enquiry.

We have exploded the myth of cheap nuclear power, a claim originally based on a false comparison: the cost of nuclear energy net of the building costs compared with oil-fired energy, including building costs. That swindle is now in the open.

India is another story and last night the excellent *First Tuesday* series (ITV) told *Nuclear India: a Dream Gone Sour* was a fine piece of journalism, complete with reporters posing as tourists bearing video cameras, to get past the wall of silence that the Indian government has shamelessly erected around its £3 billion nuclear programme.

In India's version of democracy, it is illegal for a member of parliament to ask a question about nuclear power. The Press is no less constrained, but hideous turnouts and terrible deformities cannot be hidden forever.

We saw them last night, in villages that just happen to be

next door to nuclear plants. They included a (not untypical) boy born with two sets of teeth, only one ear and no penis. A village of 500 people had perhaps a score with Down's syndrome, a proportion that can be explained away only by the sort of people who regard drink as a coincident factor when a drunk driver mows down a bus queue.

On a beach where thorium, a mineral used in nuclear power plants, is naturally occurring, the *First Tuesday* team found radioactivity at 300 times normal background levels, sufficient to bring about an evacuation in Britain. The team used a geiger counter, illegal in private hands in India. Yet a government publicity film boasts about these levels, saying that there have been no ill effects. But there have been, or is this another coincidence?

And what is the upside of this misery? The Indian nuclear energy programme produces less than 3 per cent of the country's electricity and is hopelessly inefficient. Plants spend so long shut down that many of them buy more power, to keep the lights working, than they produce. Recently India opened a fast breeder reactor which ran for two minutes, produced enough electricity to light a 200-watt bulb and then shut down.

The real purpose of India's obsession with nuclear energy can only be guessed at. But fast breeders produce more plutonium than they need and plutonium makes a mighty bang if you put it in a bomb. Perhaps India feels it needs nuclear energy so that its people will feel more secure. Last night we saw some people who could give their government an argument, were they allowed to, and we shall not easily forget them.

PETER BARNARD

JAZZ: INTERVIEW

Last orders for cocktails

Clive Davis meets George Shearing the 73-year-old pianist with a full schedule

Though a naturalised American, pianist George Shearing spends part of each year in his native England, staying in a rented cottage in the Cotswolds. His visits here are, he observes, growing longer and longer. Still active at 73, he plays two concerts this week — Edinburgh tomorrow; London on Friday — on the same bill as Carol Kidd, an ethereal interpreter of ballads who finally seems on the verge of receiving the acclaim she deserves.

After playing separate sets, the two performers are due to join forces for the show's finale. While it will be the first time they have worked together, the versatile Shearing has always known how to draw the best out of vocalists. His recent concerts and recordings with his friend Mel Tormé are prime examples. Capitol Records has also just reissued two albums made with female singers three decades ago: *Beauty and The Beast* (CDPT 98454) is a live concert with Peggy Lee; *The Swinging's Mutual* (CDPT-99190) matches Shearing with the purring Nancy Wilson.

Both albums feature the George Shearing Quintet, a group which, with numerous changes of personnel, spanned three decades. The mellow formula — in which guitar and vibraphone lines wafted an octave below and above the keyboard melody — achieved huge success, transforming Shearing from a striving young jazz pianist into a commercial phenomenon.

On his last major outing with the quintet, in the late Seventies, Shearing played 50 concerts in 63 days. By this



Frequent visitor: Shearing in the garden of his English base at Stow-on-the-Wold

time he had fallen out of favour with jazz listeners, most of whom felt that his piano playing was being pared back in order to blend with the ensemble sound. "He is capable of a lot more inventiveness than he usually offers," one critic wrote in the early Sixties. "His basic compromise is to play as if he were not really emotionally involved, even when he allows himself to do something musical."

Shearing himself has mixed feelings about the quintet. He acknowledges that its success allowed him to move out of smoky clubs and to perform on the international concert hall circuit. Yet it was obvious by the end that he felt trapped in a cocktail-hour format. He relishes the pianistic freedom of working, as he does now, with a duo or trio. The albums he has made in the past decade have contained arguably his most incisive work.

Even so, he is now thinking of re-forming the quintet to make an album for his new label, Telarc. "One more time," he says. "If that saying is good enough for Basie, it's good enough for me. There

have been enough requests from the public for me to respond to that. But I give you my word that it will not go on to a bunch of nationwide video laserdiscs."

Despite his handicap Shearing is a voracious reader. He and Tormé also both share a passion for the work of Delius, and have been known to toss musical phrases at each other in the middle of a concert. At one point in his career Shearing performed classical concertos with symphony orchestras in America.

Now that so many jazz musicians are crossing the boundaries, he is tempted to take up that challenge again. "No, the queue is too long. However, I'm working on a short Grieg Lyric Piece, which does not present any great problems. Otherwise I don't have any pretences in that direction. There are so many players. Just the other day I heard Peter Donohoe, and it was fantastic. I'm not going to enter that contest."

● George Shearing at the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031-668 2019) tomorrow; Festival Hall, London (071-928 8800) on Friday.

His mischievous sense of humour intrudes into his conversation, as well as into song titles such as "Sorry, Wrong Rumba". He and another blind star, Ray Charles, once even teamed up to advertise video laserdiscs.

He formed his first quintet in 1949, two years after emigrating to New York. Raised in a working-class home in Battersea, he studied music at a school for the blind, and turned down a classical music scholarship in order to support his family. His first job was as a pub pianist. Later he joined an all-blind dance band.

By his early twenties Shearing was dominating the British jazz piano polls. Visiting American musicians such as Glenn Miller (whose choral arrangements for records went to influence the quintet) encouraged him to come to New York. At first the young pianist was hesitant. As he later joked: "Why would they want England's Teddy Wilson when they had the genuine article?"

His mischievous sense of humour intrudes into his con-

THEATRE REVIEW

Making sense of a mass-murderer

Judging by some reviews, the attempts of the Edinburgh Festival's organisers to put C.P. Taylor firmly on the map are more likely to wipe him off it. Any such outcome would be horribly unfair. How can a dramatist be judged by bad productions of two of his better plays, namely *Walter and The Black and White Minstrels*, and passable ones of two weaker ones, namely *The Ballad of Elvira* and *Operation Elvira*? I daresay Shakespeare would have sunk into oblivion if his survival had depended on the Festival's skill in finding directors for *Macbeth* and *Lear*.

But Taylor's *Good* (St Bride's Centre) is unsinkable, even though the present director, Michael Boyd, has a liking for over-heavy cargo and the occasional kamikaze torpedo. Why the awkward set — a tall, curved wall with lots of doors cut into its varnished wood — instead of the empty space the play's somersaults through time and space demand? Why the pace slow, the protagonist stolid, and much of the supporting cast over-emphatic? How could Howard Davies' production in 1981 have been so nimble, and this so chunky?

Yet the play's quality would be evident if it were performed from under by non-Equity frogmen. It starts around 1933, ends about 1940, and shows a nice German academic evolving into a functionary at Auschwitz. What makes it extraordinary, though, is not merely that Taylor, who was Jewish, disdains to strike obvious attitudes. It is that he enters the foe's mind with sympathy and even humour, seeking to understand evil as we apt self-indulgently dismiss it as subhuman. I cannot think of a more vital endeavour, or of many better modern plays.

Taylor's Faust is Halder, impelled by a senile mother to

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

write a novel tacitly advocating euthanasia. He is courted by SS men in search of sympathetic intellectuals, and persuaded to exercise his "unsentimental humanity" in a subnormality hospital. But it is his rationalisations that matter. The extermination of incompetents is a kindness, provided the death-chamber is disguised as a bathroom. The Jews have themselves to blame for not reading the signs. His participation will stop thuggish excesses. And isn't "good" a subjective concept anyway?

It all happens slowly, gradually, almost invisibly; yet the effect is not to excuse Halder. He is ambitious, susceptible to flattery and the glint of a uniform, and apt to feed his conscience saving fibs. He is also too cowardly to risk his marriage and career by helping a Jewish friend. But in that he is no worse than most people; and this, of course, is the point. Which of us, faced with parallel pressures, can be sure we wouldn't insidiously slip into similar compromises and betrayals?

No doubt it is unjust to ask Conrad Asquith to match Alan Howard, never better than as the original Halder. But until the end, when horrified self-recognition overwhelms him, he is doggedly affable and not a lot more. Unease, fear, excitement, arrogance, shiftness and much else elude him. But the role is there, ready to be tackled again. Whatever happens to the rest of Taylor's oeuvre, this play will survive, and his reputation with it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

RADIO REVIEW

Puzzling posy of ploughs, pings, players and poetry

I read in an Italian paper last week that Harold Pinter's *The Lover* has just been put on in Shanghai. It was the first time that people with complications in their sex lives had been portrayed on the Chinese stage, and "many of the audience did not understand them."

If the Chinese were puzzled by Harold Pinter's fiddle types, how much more baffled they would have been by some of the characters that appeared on the radio over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Take Paul Heiney, for instance (A Year in Harness,

Radio 4, Saturday). In June, while all his Suffolk neighbours were cutting their hay in a matter of hours on a sunny afternoon, he was doing it with horses and broken-down old machinery, and taking two wearisome days over it. A Chinese peasant would have cut his throat at the mere idea of such folly.

But for me it was a delightful bizarre extreme of rural life today, we heard on *The Farming Week* (Radio 4, Saturday) about a sheep race designed to attract visitors to a farm. This was an example of the new "tourist farming", of

said. He talked to an old farmhand he had brought out of retirement, and learned all about the dangers of his haystacks setting themselves on fire, and he saved a pig who could not get up, using a cod liver oil and brewer's yeast remedy he had read about in a book published in 1924.

Meanwhile, at the other bizarre extreme of rural life today, we heard on *The Farming Week* (Radio 4, Saturday) about a sheep race designed to attract visitors to a farm. This was an example of the new "tourist farming", of

which one enthusiast said: "Humans are the crop — the pigs and wheat are just the fertiliser."

Bald men and women got their say on Monday in "The Balding Business" on *You and Yours* (Radio 4). Joshua Rosenberg, the legal correspondent, said he had been really wounded by a letter to the BBC from a woman who had seen him with his bald head and beard on television: her children, she wrote, thought he was the devil. Other sufferers accepted their fate more cheerfully,

reporting, for instance, how delightful it was to hear the rain as it went "ping ping" on your head.

Chess maniacs got their look-in in David Benedictus's play *En Passant* (Radio 3, Sunday), which had two Eastern European chess rivals playing a game as one stood on a bus platform and the other rode alongside him on a bicycle. But *En Passant*, though doubtless a fair picture of the run-down world of small chess tournaments, was painfully undramatic.

We came closest to something like Pinter's characters

in Claire Tomalin's *Prom interval* talk about *Shelley and Love* on Monday evening (Radio 3). She spoke enthusiastically about all the poems Shelley addressed to various women while he was married or supposed to be in love with others. The poems were also well read. But as their vague imagery of calm/flood, earth/moon and night/day flowed over, I had the feeling that it was Shelley the glamorous man that attracted Tomalin, not the vaporous raptures of his verse.

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Voices that reach us from another world

Nigel Jamieson commends a remarkable set of recordings of Gigli, Melba and many of the other singers of La Scala

A wonderful voice and great purity of style. A stupendous artist with unrivalled charm and naturalness... Words simply cannot describe the sublime effect... The critic is Giuseppe Verdi, who was almost impossible to satisfy: the singer is Adelina Patti. Wouldn't you love to hear her? Well you can, but there are two snags: her recordings were made almost 30 years after Verdi's appraisal, and the sound quality is atrocious. As so often with historic recordings, one is torn between the fascination of having an aural glimpse of a legendary performer and the feeling that she might have been better served by the imagination.

Patti is the first artist featured in *Grandi voci alla Scala*, a collection of six CDs whose 126 arias and excerpts trace a history of the major singers appearing at La Scala from the dawn of the recording age until 1980 — and also, incidentally, a history of the art of recording, whose progress is more immediately obvious than that of the art of singing.

Imagination is also required when tackling the next singer in La Scala's pantheon, Francesco Tamagno, the tenor who created the role of Otello in 1887. He was recorded many years later in the death monologue, and when we hear him groan that he has reached his journey's end, we are not inclined to disagree with him. And yet, through the oscillating his comes a still powerful voice whose ease and openness of production throughout the range are remarkable. If we can imagine it transposed back to its clarion prime, remembering that Verdi concentrated his efforts in rehearsal on drilling his musically wayward star tenor,

can we perhaps hear just a hint of what Verdi heard? The truth is that these recordings — together with those of Victor Maurel, the first tango and Falstaff — are like fragments in an archaeological museum, partial remains that must be deciphered. To have our ears really opened by *grandi voci* we must turn to singers who were recorded in their prime, such as the tenor Fernando De Lucia. He exercises the imagination in quite a different way: if he sounds so wonderful in spite of the primitive



Caruso: men sound better now

1908 sound, what can he possibly have sounded like in the flesh? In the serenade from *Il barbiere di Siviglia* he decorates the vocal line extravagantly but with such caressing grace, innate sense of style and impeccable musicianship that he is irresistible.

"Ah! non credea mirarti" sang Patti in her Welsh castle in 1906, and was recorded for posterity. Play it as an example of great singing to an opera-lover with digital ears and he will laugh at you — and not without reason, as it is easy to focus only on the flaws. But listen to it

closely, making allowance not only for the obvious crackle and the singer's 63 years but also for the effects of the primitive recording process, which make the intonation waver and strip the voice of its natural harmonics, and you can hear the vestiges of a vocal art that belongs to another world. There is a natural eloquence in the turns and embellishments that makes Bellini's music evolve from them, and a trill that is an integral part of the vocal line rather than an awkward addition to it: the aria's sadness is vividly expressed, but by very different means from those employed by today's sopranos.

Nellie Melba, on the other hand, could not be accused of bringing an excess of personal expression to her music, and in *Lucia di Lammermoor*'s mad scene is practically indistinguishable from the flute in both timbre and coldness — and also, it must be conceded, in agility and evenness. But the overall effect recalls Mahler's quip (about her *Traviata*) that he would have preferred a good clarinetist.

Male voices, in any case, tend to survive the distortions of the acoustic recording process better than female ones. Two of the most outstanding items in the Scala collection predate the 1925 introduction of electrical recording by several years: Titta Rufio and Beniamino Gigli prove that opera buffi are not always wrong when they mean about the limitations of today's singers.

Rufio's vast dark voice has an overwhelming physical presence, every word carved in granite. In "Pari siamo" his Rigoletto seethes with suppressed fury, his cries of "rabbia" quivering under his burden of oppression — and what a weight it must be to hold this voice down. His brief moment of daugh-



Adelina Patti: when she sang, there was a natural eloquence in all her turns and embellishments

ter-directed tenderness is beautifully contrasted, but watch out for his eruption into the final *follia*.

Gigli is at the opposite end of the timbre spectrum, his clear, almost ethereal tones flowing with astounding ease and expressive pliancy in a youthful rendering of an aria from Boito's *Mefistofele* — a much-represented opera in this collection, which reminds us how much tastes in repertoire have changed.

Caruso is not heard at his best in a hammy "Una furtiva lagrima", but there are excellent contributions from Bantistini, De Luca, Chaliapin,

Schipa, Muzio and many others, concluding with Lady Macbeth's "Vieni, falletta" sung by the young Maria Callas in just the hollow, stifled tones Verdi specified.

And *Grandi voci* has at least one novelty for even the most seasoned collector: a performance of "O muto aiti" by Giacomo Lauri-Volpi, described as an "unreleased test-piece". The famous tenor clearly had a bet with the technicians that he could break their new microphone by sheer lung power. He won.

The discs are accompanied by a volume of biography and criticism

written by Rodolfo Celletti, an eminent authority on voices. His judgments range from the carefully balanced to such bizarre sweeping statements as: "Aureliano Pertile's recordings are considerably superior, in terms of both technical execution and interpretative imagination, to those of any tenor of the LP or CD era." Sob, gasp. The text is in Italian only, but the pictures are wonderful.

Grandi voci alla Scala is available from Teatro alla Scala, Ufficio Stampa, Via Filodrammatica, Milan, at 136,000 Lire (£70).

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

● **AMSTERDAM:** Drawings from the Age of Brueghel. A hundred 16th-century drawings by Jan Gossaert, Lucas van Leyden, and Pieter Brueghel the Elder and others.

Rijksmuseum, Stadhouderskade 42. Tel: (31 20) 6732121. Tues-Sat, 10-5 pm, Sun, 1-5 pm. Until Nov 8.

● **BORDEAUX:** Works by the contemporary American artist Mike Kelley. Musée d'art contemporain, Entrepôt, 7 rue Ferrère, 33000 Bordeaux. Tel: (33) 56441635. Sept 18 to Nov 22.

● **FRANKFURT:** Art in the Republic of Genoa 1528-1815. Art flourished in Genoa as well as in Venice and Florence, but it has not often been assembled on this scale. Schirn Kunsthalle, Am Römerberg. Tel: (49 69) 2998820. Mon, 2-6 pm, Tues-Fri, 10-10 pm, Sat, Sun 10-7 pm. From Sept 5 to Nov 8.

● **PARIS:** As part of its autumn season, the Théâtre du Châtelet are producing a series of Schumann concerts. In the first on Sept 13, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra conducted by Riccardo Chailly, will perform the *Overture, Scherzo et Finale, Op 52*, and the *Concertstück* for four horns and orchestra. On Oct 2 there is a performance by the baritone, Thomas Hampson, of music by Schumann, Schubert, and Scharlatti. The series continues into November. Théâtre du Châtelet, 2 rue Edouard Colonne. Tel: (33 1) 40282840.

● **TURIN:** Settembre Musica is organised by the cultural council of the city. There are over 50 classical and contemporary concerts, some taking place in the open air. The Turin Symphony Orchestra, the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra are taking part. Settembre Musica, Città di Torino, Assessorato per la Cultura, Piazza San Carlo 161, 1-10123 Turin. Tel: (39) 11 5765564. Until Sept 19.

HEATHER ALSTON

Swiss artists take the foreground: in Verona the largest Paul Klee exhibition ever, and a revival of the subversive Félix Vallotton in Amsterdam

Soon after Paul Klee came back from the first world war, where despite his Swiss birth he served in the German army, the Hans Goltz Gallery in Munich gave him a retrospective exhibition. This, along with his appointment by Walter Gropius to the faculty of the Bauhaus where he taught from 1921 to 1931, established Klee as a successful and renowned artist in his own lifetime.

The new exhibition at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Verona — benefiting from important loans from the Paul-Klee-Stiftung, Berne, Aljoscha Klee (the artist's grandson) and the Kunstsammlung

Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf — announces itself as the largest exhibition of Klee's work ever held. The show covers Klee's entire career, from "infantile" to the sombre late work. The early works include comical, Jugendstil illustrations of hooked fish, which echo a hilarious description of the aquarium in Naples from the diary of his 1901-2 Italian journey.

Franz Marc's pantheism and Vasily Kandinsky's theories of the spiritual in art were profound influences on Klee's

Great little artist

creative thinking. Klee and Kandinsky drew closest during their shared Bauhaus period, when smallness of scale and humorous whimsy enter occasional works of Kandinsky's, and when Klee's constructivist, floating geometric forms echo Kandinsky's watercolours. Klee's watercolour, *Transparent and Perspective* (1921), with folds of striped fabric, resembling windbreakers on an English beach, could be mistaken for a Kandinsky but for the narrative intrusion of a circular pavilion.

How major an artist was Klee? Peggy Guggenheim listed the theft of five paintings by Klee from her New York gallery in 1942 among the tragedies of her career as a collector. John Berger once wrote that in a certain sense "Klee can barely be considered an artist at all". He was referring to the lack of "conscious intention and deliberate striving", which he considered a *sine qua non*. There is indeed a degree of automatism in Klee's work — the "surviving" consisted in eliminating "intention" and struggling off the learned European culture.

Klee's primitive, spontaneous, childish but naive lines, textures and images, although sometimes vilified as doodling, make him seem a more natural artist than many a master with a programme. By ranging with total freedom through symbol, abstract forms, calligraphy, geometry, and figuration, many of his works are prophetic of post-second world war Western art. For example Penck, Cucchi and Paladino use the same mixture of the informal and primitive figuration. Klee was

the first major European artist to use the grid format. Most significantly, at least two works in the Verona exhibition bring Dubuffet to mind: *Desert of Mines* (1933) and *Separations* (1939). There is a strong argument that Klee represented a link between pre- and post-second world war European art, counterbalancing the notion of American dominance of European art in the 1950s.

Although he was a founding member of the Blue Rider group and although he was, with Kandinsky, the most important teacher at the Bauhaus, Klee eludes definition as belonging to this or that 20th-century movement or milieu. Perhaps this, combined with his falling in the long shadow of Kandinsky, with the banal fact that his enormous production is small in scale (*petit peintre, petit maître*), and with the puritanical belief that windy paintings are necessarily slight, explains why he is not unanimously acclaimed as one of the great masters.

Klee's historical importance is clear, in my view, and his work has contributed to the longevity of painting as an expressive means in the late 20th century.

The Galleria d'Arte Moderna of Verona is funded by a combination of sponsors and the municipal department for culture. With this support, director Giorgio Cortesova



An early jest by Paul Klee: A fish, two friends, a little animal (detail)

has mounted exhibitions of Modigliani, Alberto Savinio, Picasso, the German Expressionists, Magritte, and now Klee. The trend is evident — mainstream modernism and big names, which will appeal to tourists, citizens and sponsors in a successful mixture. This is splendid for Verona — midway between its two rivals for art-exhibition pre-eminence, Milan and Venice — and indicative of a tendency among Italy's smaller northern cities to group towards a permanent role for modern and contemporary art in their local culture. Bergamo, Vicenza, Bologna and Ferrara are each at different stages on the same route.

PHILIP RYLANDS

Paul Klee is on show at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Palazzo Forti, Verona, until December 2. Open daily 9am to 10pm. Catalogue: Paul Klee, published by Mazzotta, Milan, 364 pp, 90,000 Lire (£40)

The retrospective of Félix Vallotton's work at Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum is the first European stage in a revival of interest in the Swiss post-impressionist.

Almost forgotten after the flop of a large exhibition in Switzerland in the 1970s, Vallotton has now been catapulted back into the limelight, mainly thanks to the efforts of Sasha Newman, the curator of Yale University's art gallery.

"Even in the 1970s, people were embarrassed by his cold, lethal nudes and his subversive vision. They prefer to cling to his woodcuts of Parisian life and early portraits. Vallotton was an unresolved chapter in late 19th-century painting and I decided it was time to bring him out of the closet," explains Newman, who has organised three retrospectives of the artist's work in the United States over the past 12 months.

Vallotton, who was born in 1865 in Lausanne, went to study art in Paris in the mid-1880s. There he met Edouard Vuillard and Pierre Bonnard, who in 1889 formed the Nabis, who took their name from the Hebrew word for "prophet".

Vallotton joined the Nabis in 1892. He was known to his friends as "le Nabi étranger," because of his Swiss roots; and the *soubriquet* could also apply to his work. At first sight, his paintings suggest a striving for realism and the classical reproduction of traditional subjects. However, looking closer one always finds something subversive at work: the wilfully clumsy detail of a foot, or a young nude girl bathing in full make-up.

In his painting of the Nabis, *The Five Painters* (1902-3), Vallotton portrays these avant-gardists as sober businessmen with watery eyes and flabby jowls. The figures are arranged around a desk in a style reminiscent of the Dutch

Nabi says 'No'

old masters' paintings of wealthy merchants. He deliberately makes his painting — which is about the founders of a new artistic sensitivity — as "dead as a door nail" explains Newman. "The Nabis were all after very different things. While Bonnard's work was about the sense of touch, Vallotton's is about the evasion of touch."

In perhaps his greatest female nude painting, *Three Women and a Young Girl Playing in the Water* (1907), the spectator is repulsed. The expected intimacy of such a grouping is destroyed by a cold "northern" style. The bathers are submerged in their own exclusive world. This painting shocked the Parisian salons but is now seen as one of the first examples of "psy-

chological naturalism". One is reminded of Francis Bacon's truncated forms, or of Lucian Freud.

The woodcuts for which Vallotton is best remembered are indeed superb, making him one of the most important graphic artists of the late 19th century. The best example is *Intimities*, a series on the theme of the futility of true love, and the ramifications of an illicit affair.

An surprising part of Vallotton's output is the landscapes and grand mythological scenes which he painted after leaving the Nabis in the early 1900s.

There is a real conflict there," Newman says. "He wanted to be a true artist but he also wanted worldly success, and he made money from his landscapes. He was, after all, a good Swiss bourgeois — but he deserves a far more prominent place in art history."

MARK FULLER

● The retrospective (about 100 paintings and 50 works on paper) runs until November 1 at Van Gogh Museum, Parkstraat 7, Amsterdam (31 20 570 5200).



La Paresse (Idleness): one of Vallotton's woodcuts

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THE TIMES

FESTIVALS: GERMANY

What Prague means to Berlin

their customers to look at over their coffee. *Der Spiegel*, Germany's biggest-selling news magazine and a keen spotter of trends, has just published a special "Germans and Jews" edition.

Some of this enthusiasm for things Jewish can be traced to the huge exhibition "Patterns of Jewish Life" which ran for three months at the beginning of this year, examining almost every aspect of Jewish culture but ignoring the Holocaust. This omission, highly controversial at the time, has

proved to have been justified, helping to erode the stereotype of the Jew as a victim and encouraging young Germans to look beyond their inherited guilt and to focus on the part the Jews have played in the creation of their own culture.

This process will receive a boost today when Berlin's annual cultural festival, the *Berliner Festwochen* or "Festival Weeks" opens, taking Prague as its theme, and focusing on the coming together of German, Jewish and Czech cultures in the city.

When the Festwochen began in 1950, the purpose was to bring back some cultural life to a city ruined by war, and the festival grew steadily throughout the Fifties. When the Berlin Wall was built in 1961, the Festwochen found a new role helping to boost morale in the isolated enclave of West Berlin. East Berlin set up its own Festwochen and by the time the Wall came down in November 1989 Berlin had two full-scale arts festivals running simultaneously through-

out every September.

Now Ulrich Eckhardt, in his 20th year as director of the Festwochen, has adroitly shifted the emphasis of his festival towards charting Germany's place on the new cultural map of Europe.

Hence this year's focus on Prague, which has recently attracted hundreds of thousands of German visitors, so that German is now heard almost as often as Czech on Weinsteins Square. During the Twenties, German was spoken by the merchants, the

civil servants and many of the Jews of Prague, and these three groups formed a small but vital community which produced writers such as Max Brod, Franz Werfel and Franz Kafka. Kafka dominates the Festwochen with readings of his work and the world premiere of Arribert Reimann's opera *The Castle*.

The stars of the festival include Simon Rattle, Riccardo Muti and Maurizio Pollini but this will, more than anything, be a chance for Berliners to consider the loss to their own culture caused by the Nazis as they reflect on Prague, the spiritual centre of the Jews in Europe.

DENIS STAUNTON

● The Berliner Festwochen runs until September 27.

How to be big in Hollywood

Miriam Margolyes
says she is all
Californian now,
bar the jogging.
Susan Ellicott
reports

Miriam Margolyes is hardly a meek interviewee. For a start, she opens her front door draped in a towel. Seconds after an apology for stepping out of a shower shortly before midday, she plunks herself on a squidgy sofa and launches into a passionate criticism of the politics of George Bush.

The president of the United States is tired, vile and undeserving of a second term, she declares, warning to the theme despite drips of water from her hair on to her bare shoulders. Five minutes later, she finally excuses herself to put on some clothes. "Look at my books or something," she suggests, waving a hand vaguely toward two shelves as she walks into a bedroom.

Margolyes is one of the least stuffy Brits ever to hit Hollywood — a chatterbox of extra-large proportions who has hit her professional stride in the land of excess. In fact, she is such a joyous "loose cannon" (her own words), that journalists face a hurdle when writing about her. It is impossible to convey her exuberance without resorting to italics.

If Margolyes did not act, she could probably make a fortune giving elocution lessons to the children of wealthy foreigners keen for their darlings to speak impeccable English. Her "par-tic-u-lar-ly" is a study in the perfect diction that kicked off an early career in commercial voice-overs for tea and sherry.

Today, however, she knows that there is life (and work) aplenty after playing a talking PG Tips chimpanzee.

In the United States, where she has lived for three years, Margolyes, now 51, is unashamedly happy with herself. This year alone, she will appear in two Hollywood films, *The Age of Innocence*, directed by Martin Scorsese and based on the Edith Wharton novel, and *Ed and His Dead Mother*, (about a woman brought back to life when she eats cockroaches).

Also coming up are her first television sitcom series, *Franny's Turn*, and *Stalin*, a film with Robert Duvall. In this country, the film of *As You Like It*, in which she plays Audrey, goes on general release early next month. In short, she is having what she might call a jolly good time.

"It's like a gift in my late life," she says. "I'm very conscious of time passing. In some ways I feel like I'm in my prime. But it's funny to have such a late prime."

It is 75°F on a late August morning. The view from the balcony of Margolyes's 12th-



Quite at home: actress Miriam Margolyes, a chatterer of extra-large proportions, has reached the peak of her profession in the land of excess

floor flat stretches for miles along the palm trees and beaches of Los Angeles bay.

"Fresh as paint, dear," she quips in a cockney voice as she pours two glasses of the fresh orange juice squeezed by her maid, Martha. "She came in especially today because I was embarrassed about the state of the place — But if you had urine that colour, you'd be very worried."

Margolyes compares coming to America during middle age with another of her most formative experiences — that of winning a place at Newnham College, Cambridge, from an all-girls school in Oxford, to read English.

She describes herself as living in "suspended Englishness", which may be so if one follows the American stereotype of the English as moody and reserved. She is neither, offering advice on how to rent a car at Heathrow airport and showing the photograph album of her renovated farmhouse in Tuscany, which she rents out (a hobby she inherited from her mother, an Oxford landlady).

But there are tell-tale signs of Englishness about her aside from her accent. Her bookshelves hold a battered edition of the collected works of Dickens, whom she considers greater than Shakespeare in his portrayal of the human spirit, and pieces of Victorian china and silverware collected at flea markets in California. And, in a city of pneumatic

"babes" rushing from one work-out class to another, Margolyes is unperturbed by her ample size.

"I ab-so-lute-ly think I should lose weight. No doubt about that," she says with the resigned air of someone who knows she won't. "But I'll never be thin. People really like me anyway. So if fashion frowns upon it... Poo-hoo!"

"I'm not a Hollywood person at all," she says, denying much knowledge about the glitz of the US entertainment industry. "You only have to look at me to know that."

Yet Hollywood has been kind to Margolyes, who packed her bags for America after Los Angeles critics gave her an award in 1989 for Dickens's showy Flora Funching in the film of *Little Dorrit*. Cleverly, in a business full of young lithe beauties with short shelf-lives, she has carved a niche for herself as a roly-poly comic actor.

"I swim 40 lengths a day. I don't smoke. I don't drink. I am health conscious. I take vitamins. I'm very Californian," she adds with an edge of mischief. "The only thing is I don't jog because I think that might frighten people."

In *The Age of Innocence*, she plays the matriarch of a rather high class New York family, a woman of shrewdness and on the whole a benevolent creature. She describes the role with a jovial swipe at herself.

"Enormously fat," she says. "Pendulously fat. Encased in fat. Out of which her huge,

sharp, intelligent eyes dart about in this glacial face... I'm tailor-made for the role."

Appearing alongside Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer, Winona Ryder and a handful of British actors, including Sean Phillips, Geraldine Chaplin and Richard E. Grant, Margolyes admits she found it "a bit scary" to work closely with Scorsese, whom she describes as "a powerful personality and very intense director. You felt you wanted to do your best."

For someone as literary as she, Scorsese, an ex-film student and filmmaker's film-maker, was also a challenge because "his quotations are from film not literature". Often on set, she remembers, the director was so tense that only his reaching for an anti-asthma inhaler showed him down.

An only child of Jewish parents, Margolyes says she was always a show-off and has indulged this tendency through acting, starting with the Footlights revue with John Cleese. As a youngster, she would pretend to faint in class to get attention, which caused all sorts of commotion since she "was always a rather lumpy child". Once, she climbed inside the horse in the school gymnasium and fiddled it across the floor, her large hazel eyes sticking out.

"I've not really moderated myself at all," she says. "I still fart in rehearsals." Compared with the British, she finds the Americans surprisingly shockable, in part because they are "much more hard-working

than we are, extremely formal and conformist".

"You can't be shocking in America," she says, maybe to her chagrin. "It distresses them to have someone like me... who speaks my mind. I said bowel movement on the Johnny Carson Show and he never invited me back — after the third time."

Some things about America she will never comprehend, including the fact among teenagers for wearing baseball caps and other clothing back-to-front. "The other thing I cannot get over is the slitting of jeans. It's ap-pall-ing. I mean, Jews only do that when there's death in the family."

Until now, Margolyes has been better known in Britain than in the United States. But the television sitcom could change all that. This week, she was due to appear on the *Tonight* show with Carson's

successor, Jay Leno, to plug her role as Franny, a middle-aged seamstress in a fashion house, who embraces the women's movement late in life while looking after a mother-in-law with Alzheimer's disease.

Trying to be modern after raising two children with a husband "who's in pest control", Franny takes it upon herself to improve their sex life, mend a sink and have a say in the family finances.

Critics are likening the show to *Roseanne*, which has the same producer, although Franny is years behind Roseanne when it comes to self-expression. Margolyes hopes that viewers will learn something from the show.

And, if they don't, well, here's to America anyway. "I know what I want," she says with a smile. "And I'm going hell for leather at it."

The sex with no voice

Women are natural conservationists.
Who will speak for them now?

Immediately after the 1989 elections to the European parliament, Mrs Thatcher's government held an emergency weekend meeting to discuss the implications of the Green party's 15 per cent vote. An odd thing to do, given that even higher percentage votes for previous incarnations of the Liberal Democrats had left the government unperturbed.

But an opinion poll had suggested that 45 per cent of the British people would consider voting Green in a general election. No wonder the government was worried.

And no wonder the Green party was excited. Years of arguing that environmental degradation was a matter for urgent action were over. At last we could get down to the solutions.

We now know, of course, that the Green party did not win seats at Westminster this year. Indeed the party was scarcely visible in April's general election. Instead of grasping the opportunities of 1989 with both hands, it demonstrated the most amazing political ineptitude. The party proved incapable of agreeing any political or organisational strategy.

This failure caused me endless frustration and eventually led to my decision to step down as chairman of the executive after 17 years' active involvement in the party. Sad as I am about that, I am troubled by an even greater remorse.

Research shows that, apart from young people in general, it is women, especially those with young children, who have the greatest sympathy with green ideas. The Green party raised hopes that a refreshing breeze would now blow through Britain's dusty grey and very manly political establishments. Women wanted to hear a new voice, one which could talk about their lives and worries in a language they could understand.

The apparently natural empathy between women and green politics has been the subject of many a book and pamphlet. Going beyond the general observation that

women are often experts at making ends meet and are therefore intuitive conservationists, some writers have argued that women and their experience are better placed than men to understand ecological processes.

Great significance has been laid on the parallels between menstruation patterns and life nurturing powers (pregnancy, birth and suckling) and the cycles of the moon and the seasons. And the oppression of women by men, it is claimed, makes women uniquely able to identify with the oppression of nature.

Wading through such stuff can do wonders for the (female) reader's morale. But the



Parkin: farewell to the Greens

notion that the workings of our bodies and centuries of oppression give us superior insight into the relationships of all life is bunkum. It denies that some women can and do operate as aggressively and destructively as any man.

Furthermore, as stopping environmental destruction and ending the human misery which accompanies it is such an urgent task, there is simply no time to exact reparations — as most ordinary women realise. They are less interested in how the chemicals got into supermarket food or in the grisly background to the civil war in Somalia than with the practicalities of getting safe and nourishing food to their own and to Somali families from now on. They ask, rightly, why history should prevent this happening.

In failing to recruit their support, the Green party has done itself and the Earth a seriously bad turn.

SARA PARKIN

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Tartt bites the Big Apple

A well-versed
young writer
from Mississippi
is the toast of
literary America

New York's publishing industry was becoming desperate. The Brat Pack of young 1980s novelists had grown up and left home: Bret and Jay and Tania, long in the tooth in their thirties, were maturing themselves out of notoriety. No one was buying first novels any more. Huge advances wandered around the industry in search of an author.

To the rescue came an unlikely figure, with an even more unlikely name: Donna Tartt, a waif-like, pale-faced, 28-year-old Mississippian with 806 pages (or 316) of neatly-typed manuscript, a taste for men's suits, an apartment in Greenwich Village, a parrot and a pug, called Pungu. The publishers slavered. Bret Easton Ellis, of *Less Than Zero* fame and *American Psycho* infamy, endorsed her. His agent adopted her and a ferocious auction ensued, which left Ms Tartt under the imprint of the great New York publishers Alfred A. Knopf and \$450,000 richer.

The film deal is already signed, 75,000 copies of the book have been printed and Ms Tartt has been interviewed by almost every glossy magazine in America — beginning with a breathless piece in *Vanity Fair*, which, like



Worthy of her hype: Donna Tartt, a publisher's dream

Knopf, is part of the Random House publishing empire.

And that, cynically speaking, has been the exceedingly unsecret history of Ms Tartt: a tale of bloated advances, a publicity frenzy and an eccentric female author with a funny name and a literary bent — in short, a phenomenon.

Ms Tartt could be dismissed as a Brat Pack '90s style, were it not for one central difference: she is exceptionally talented, and her book *The Secret History* (to be published in Britain by Viking next month) is a haunting, compelling and brilliant piece of fiction. It tells the story of a group of classics students at an elite American college, who are cerebral, obsessive and finally murderous.

The *Secret History* is a whodunnit in reverse from the first page we are told who killed whom: the question is why, packed with literary allusion and told with a sophistication and texture that

owes much more to the 19th century than to the 20th.

The book is narrated by Richard Pape, a Californian boy who confesses with hindsight to events that took place years before. *The Secret History* is a college coming-of-age story, but with none of the adolescent self-indulgence that suggests.

The '80s clutch of young novelists made its reputation peeling back the mottled skin of youth culture, to reveal the anomie underneath: the writers were familiar with orgies, drugs and fast cars — at least, that is what they wrote about, sometimes with depth.

Ms Tartt, on the other hand, is familiar with Nabokov, Buddha, Nietzsche, Pound, Eliot, Poe, Salinger and Plato, as well as the arcana of orgies and drugs. She is possibly the first famous author under 30 for at least a decade who reads more books than magazines,

and she wears her erudition on her sleeve.

If her book was not so good, Ms Tartt might, just might be unbearably pretentious. Her telephone answering machine has a recording of T.S. Eliot reading from *The Waste Land* ("I love having a dead man answer my telephone"); she tends to paralyse interviewers by breaking into recitations of ancient Greek; and her conversation bristles with *mots justes* that sometimes have the air of rehearsal. She confided to *Vanity Fair* that at university she could be found "eating in the Union by myself, reading Nietzsche. I was so happy".

"My life is like *Candide*," she said to another interviewer: "I'm exactly the same size as Lolita" to another: "I ran around barefoot as a child, like Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird*" to yet another.

For the time being the American media are too busy rushing to reread the classics and pretending to understand Greek to wince, but when the Tartt backlash comes it may be harsh.

The slightly emetic quality of Ms Tartt's literary conversation, however, translates into startling and rich writing and when her guard is down she appears for what she is: a remarkably clever writer who has been taken up by the world's most efficient publishing publicity machine, but who deserves it. "All I did was write my novel for eight years," she told one interviewer in a revelatory moment, "I'm basically kind of summed."

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If you work with really matters and your heart is set on a job where you constantly handle people and you don't want to be super-glued to your typewriter...this might just be it. You will need at least 40 typing to back-up your talented team but, much of your job is impressing the boots off their very elite clientele! Although you are expected to work hard, you are expected to play hard too! With some Word Perfect experience under your belt (6 months in an office will do fine) and aged in your late teens, early twenties and, if you can resist the call of Bond Street shops...and if people really matter, better give us a call!

18-21 Jernyn Street, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone 071 734 7341 Facsimile 071 734 3260ROYAL COLLEGE OF
OBSTETRICIANS AND
GYNAECOLOGISTS
REGENT'S PARK
COMMITTEE
SECRETARY

up to £15,000 plus benefits (a.a.)

The College is a membership organisation concerned with standards of care, training, education and examinations in the medical specialty of obstetrics and gynaecology.

An experienced Committee Secretary is required to work in the Postgraduate Training Department to prepare agendas and minutes without supervision and deal with a large amount of paper work. Whilst shorthand would be an advantage the Chairman will require transcription of audio. The word processing system is Unisys.

Excellent working conditions include flexible working hours, free lunches, interest free season ticket loan and generous leave entitlement.

For details and an application form please telephone Kim Dawson on 071-262-5425 (no agencies please).

WEDNESDAY

The Crème de la Crème Secretarial Appointments
Property: Residential, Town & Country,
Overseas, Rentals.
Commercial Property: with editorial.

THURSDAY

General Appointments: Management, Engineering,
Science & Technology, with editorial.
Accountancy & Finance.
The Crème de la Crème Secretarial Appointments.

FRIDAY

International Appointments:
Overseas Opportunities.
Matters: The complete car buyer's guide
with editorial.
Business to Business: Business opportunities.

TUESDAY

Legal Appointments:
Solicitors, Commercial
Lawyers, Legal Officers,
Private & Public Practice
with editorial.
Public Appointments.
Creative & Media
Appointments

MONDAY

Educational: University
Appointments, Prep & Public
School Appointments.
Educational Courses.
Scholarships and Fellowships
with editorial.
The Crème de la Crème Secretarial Appointments.

PARLAIS VOUS FRANCAIS?
£20,000 at 23

This young high-flyer needs a bilingual assistant to provide full secretarial and administrative support and to hold the fort during his frequent foreign trips. It is a pressurised and exciting environment where everyone works hard and is rewarded well. There are excellent prospects if you are a proactive team-player with a lively personality, sense of humour and a professional approach to your work. Age: 23+ Skills: 30 wpm typing, shorthand very useful. Fluent French.

Call 071 726 8491
ANGELA MORTIMER
Secretarial Recruitment ConsultantsPARTY PLANNING
SECRETARY

We are a small but well-known catering/party planning company based in South London, looking for an outgoing, young secretary with good all-round secretarial skills to work for our two hectic party organisers, with involvement in all aspects of the business. Please send CV's to: Miss Dore Turner, The Admirable Orlion Ltd, 6 Camberwell Trading Estate, Denmark Road, London SE5 9LS.

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£22,000

One of the World's most famous companies is looking for a quite outstanding individual to join their HR team, somebody who will provide challenge and new dimensions to the company. Based in Central London, the department provides a full HR service to the Group Head Office. You will be responsible for recruitment of support staff and junior managers; training programmes; compensation issues and general departmental administration (such as cars, employee loans etc).

You must have:
• 3-4 years experience whilst in HR environment
• Minimum 'A' level education
• The ability to work within tight deadlines
• A proactive approach

This position is for a committed individual, with the ability to go higher, and higher within the company - average individuals need not apply.

I am Wendy Johnson - I only want the best.
Call me today if that's you on 071 240 0646 or fax your CV on 071 240 1965.

Working Girls Limited, Professional Recruitment, 11 Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 7PA.

BEAR STEARNS
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FIXED INCOME GROUP

Bear, Stearns is an international firm of stockbrokers and investment bankers based in Canary Wharf.

We currently have a vacancy for a Sales Assistant to work for our expanding Fixed Income department.

Previous experience within a similar environment is essential. You will perform a variety of administrative and secretarial duties for the sales group and therefore secretarial experience is also required, preferably with a knowledge of Lotus 123 and Wordperfect.

An excellent package is offered for this position, including BUPA and a generous travel subsidy.

Please write enclosing your CV and an indication of your current salary to:

Miss Julia Morris
Bear, Stearns International Ltd
One Canada Square
London E14 5AD

TOP EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY/PA

Required immediately for Managing Director of major UK Property Investment Company based in London. Must have humour & initiative. Hours 9.45-5.30. Knowledge of German an advantage. Salary £18,000. CV & references to Times Box No 9973.

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with editorial.
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Legal Appointments:
Solicitors, Commercial
Lawyers, Legal Officers,
Private & Public Practice
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Public Appointments.
Creative & Media
Appointments

WEDNESDAY

The Crème de la Crème Secretarial Appointments
Property: Residential, Town & Country,
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Commercial Property: with editorial.

THURSDAY

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Lawyers, Legal Officers,
Private & Public Practice
with editorial.
Public Appointments.
Creative & Media
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Weekend Times
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Maine - Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

Operations Controller

£20-25,000 + Profit related bonus + Medical + STL

Our client leads the way in dealing with many facets of Human Resource Consultancy, although outplacement is its core activity. With a rapidly soaring turnover in excess of ten million, incredible corporate strength and a reputation for "quality service" unmatched by all the others, it has attained a very impressive list of international clients. The time has come to expand its Central London operations further and a very high calibre Executive is sought for the position of Operations Controller, aged between 28 and 40, reporting directly to the Divisional Director.

The Divisional Director is responsible for two major areas of the business. Firstly securing new business and, secondly, ensuring that the business is executed professionally. A new operational role, has been expressly created to handle as much of the operational management side as is possible - the objective being to allow the Divisional Director to focus more strongly on sales and management strategy. The challenge is multifaceted and calls for an intelligent, people-orientated individual who is very adaptable and able to respond constructively and sensitively to corporate change.

Because people-handling is the service that our client offers, it is imperative that every detail on each project is carefully overseen by the Controller. Therefore, taking into account the plethora of projects that are current at any given moment, an individual who has a service industry background coupled with real ability to adapt to an ever-changing list of daily priorities is compulsory. A real troubleshooter.

A substantial part of this role will be to act as a central communicating link between the various specialist teams, ensuring that the best working relations are maintained and that all the people in these teams are working in such a way that the best quality service is always provided.

Previous Office Management experience is an important characteristic of the right candidate as is an innovative, creative but realistic ability to set up cost-effective controlling/administrative/organisational systems. This experience will most probably be found in people who have already held a full senior Office Management post in a busy professional organisation.

The reward for the right individual who can handle this challenge is extensive responsibility, career prospects and a very attractive package.

18-21 Jernyn Street, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone 071 734 7341 Facsimile 071 734 3260Start Now!
£12 - £15,000

We have several exciting opportunities for young secretaries with 6 months - 2 years experience. If you have skills of fast typing/wp and are interested in one of the following:

- Secretary in a prestigious publishing company (30 wpm Shorthand essential)
- Assistant/Sec to Office Manager of a PLC
- Secretary in a well known investment bank (includes mortgage subsidy)
- Secretary for a magazine company

Please call 071-437 6032 for further details

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The Go-Between - £22,000

We are looking for a professional PA/ Secretary with a financial background to work alongside the Finance Director of a major British Group.

He needs someone capable of interacting between the Corporate Head Office and the various companies within the group.

An exceptional role for someone ready to accept more than normal responsibility. Age 30-35. Skills 100/70

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES
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(FEATURES)
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Salary circa £16,500-£17,000 p.a.

Applications are invited for the above vacancy.

This is a busy newspaper office and the post holder will be expected to work as part of a team. First class shorthand and secretarial skills are required, as well as the ability to undertake administrative work without supervision.

Four weeks' holiday to start, increasing with service to a maximum of six weeks. Company BUPA membership and voluntary pension scheme.

Anyone interested should apply in writing with a CV to:

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